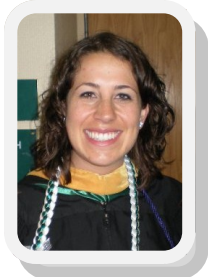




The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: May 2011

Letter from the Acting Director: Jess Myers



"What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the world calls a butterfly." -Richard Bach

When I returned back to the States after a year of service in Jamaica, I was in a state of distress. Though I know I needed to return home and everything would

be okay... eventually... I wasn't sure how to find peace or sense of self in this weird and uncomfortable time of transition. Another returned volunteer suggested I read William Bridges' book entitled "Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change." He outlines the 3 phases of change, which include the ending/losing/letting go, the neutral zone, and the new beginning. In the past month, the Women's Center entered into our losing and letting go phase as we began to say goodbye to our Director, Mollie. Many of our "frequent fliers" and student staff members in their last semester have also begun to journey through this phase, beginning to let go of their identity as a student and figuring out the scary part of what's next. Across campus, others are also letting go... letting go of jobs, roommates, classes, leadership roles, and so forth. Transition is certainly in the air!

During this time of transition, we hope you all remember to come and rest a while in the Women's Center. Share your struggles with others over a cup

of tea or coffee. Take a break from studies and worries to watch our last film of their semester series. Join us for our end of the year Pot Luck celebration on May 11th where we can reflect on the year, say goodbye to Mollie, and congratulate our grads. Whatever your reason for coming into the Center is, we hope it gives you peace and helps you move forward into your new beginnings.

Speaking of new beginnings, you may have noticed my thoughts have moved up on the page to the director section. With Mollie's departure, I have been given the amazing opportunity to step in as Acting Director for the next year. I am beyond excited (though it is sad to see Mollie, who has been an amazing mentor and advocate for me, leave) to serve the Women's Center and UMBC community in this capacity. I look forward to the challenges ahead and the opportunity to be more active and present in this wonderful place!

Good luck to everyone as you enter into finals week (whether you're taking them, grading them, or listening to the woes of either side). May you finish the year strong! And, special thanks and love to our graduates... you will be greatly missed!

-Jess Myers, Acting Director
Jess.myers@umbc.edu



Special points of interest:

- ☺ Letters from the Director and Coordinator
- ☺ Spring Film Series Information
- ☺ Women's Center Fundraiser—Travels Mugs!
- ☺ Ongoing and Upcoming Events (Returner Women Meetings, Mother's Meetings, and more!)
- ☺ GWST Summer and Fall Courses
- ☺ Shout Outs!
- ☺ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions

May Thoughts from Kiesha Turner-Baker: Women's Center Student

As I prepare to graduate from UMBC in May 2011, the process of saying goodbye to this institution has started. While I have learned so much in the last four years, nothing can compare to the amazing people I had the pleasure of meeting here. As a Social Work and Women's Studies major, I have interacted with people from various backgrounds. I am a more humble, accepting and understanding human being because of my chosen academic paths. In addition to the lessons I have learned in the classroom, my professional life as a

Women's Center staff member has benefited me tremendously. Over the last two years in this space, I have seen the growth of a positive spirit in this community. In the center, people are not segregated by their social status; here we interact as one group of people sharing a common space. It has been wonderful to see how diversity and multiculturalism have been embraced in the Women's Center; I will miss these times the most. As we move forward with our lives, let us not forget the impact we can have on those around us; it only takes one person to

start a revolution!

The Women's Center is Now on Facebook!!

Be sure to "Like" our page to make sure all the latest Women's Center updates and happenings find their way to your Facebook newsfeed!

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.

Meetings will take place every Wednesday at 12:00pm during free hour (with the exceptions of 5/4 when no meetings will take place). Please feel to bring your lunch. Complimentary tea and coffee are available to all guests.



*The Women's Center Staff
Good Bye Mollie!! We'll miss you!*

Women's Spring 2011 Film Series: Last One!!

The Women's Center Spring Film Series just finished up with the viewing and discussion of *Killing Us Softly* and is ready to do it again (back to back) for our final film of the semester, *Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She*.

The film will run on May 2, 3, 4, and 5th with show times at 10, 11, 12noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5pm. **The discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Jodi Kelber-Kaye and Dr. April Householder and will take place on Wednesday, May 4th at noon in the Women's Center (please note the change!!!).** The synopsis of the film is as follows: *This film sensitively explores the controversial subject of the blurring of gender as well as the serious social and family problems—*

even dangers—often faced by those whose gender may fall somewhere between male and female... Middle Sexes examines the ways different societies and cultures handle the blurring of gender, sexual identity and sexual orientation through interviews with transgender, intersexual and bisexual men and women, as well as experts from the scientific and academic communities. From this, a theme of tolerance and appreciation of diversity emerges in the film.

For additional details, show and discussion times, please visit the Women's Center website at www.umbc.edu/womenscenter.

Relay for Life Team Update

Thanks to all of those who supported our team with donations or through their presence at the event.

Over \$500 was raised by the Women's Center team!!

Special thanks to Mah Siddiqui and Erin Butler for organizing a great time for a great cause!

Women's Center 20th Anniversary: A Call for Support!

The UMBC Women's Center turns 20 in September 2011! In celebration of this momentous occasion, plans are underway for a year of events to mark an important milestone. As you are planning for the 2011-2012 academic year, keep the Women's Center in mind. If your program or event can be linked to the mission of the Women's Center, we would like to consider partnering with you. Whether it is a lecture, book display, art exhibit, photography instillation,

discussion, film, research symposium, faculty spotlight, video project, slide show, or anything else that may help to celebrate the brilliant contributions of women on and off campus, let us know by completing a program sponsorship form that can be found on our website! We're also looking for volunteers to help with the year-long events. Anyone interested can also fill out a form located on the homepage of our website: <http://www.umbc.edu/womenscenter/>

Career Peer position available in Career Services Center!!

For more information or to apply for this 10-12 hour a week position, Log into your UMBCworks account (<http://careers.umbc.edu/students/umbcworks.pdf>) and enter job# 9245031 in the keyword box. Application deadline is May 9, 2011.

Last Mothers' Meeting will take place noon to 1pm at the Women's Center on May 13.

All mothers are welcome! Share a cup of tea and your stories/struggles, celebrations about one of life's greatest & most challenging experiences!



Please join us on May 11th for our End of the Year Celebration. It will be a joint celebration of thanks and praise for a great year, a good bye to Mollie, and a congratulations to our graduates! If you would like to bring a dish, please come to the center to sign up or email Jess at jess.myers@umbc.edu. All are welcome!!!

Women's Center Coffee Mug Fundraiser!

The Women's Center is taking pre-orders for to-go travel mugs with the Women's Center logo on it. For just \$10 you get your very own Women's Center mug to use when you get coffee or tea from the Center AND the satisfaction of knowing you helped raise money for the Women's Center day-to-day needs. Please stay tuned for more information about pre-order and thanks in advanced for your support!



Here's what the mug will look like!

This week, a veteran stopped by the Women's Center to promote the Telling Project which will be showing on May 6th and 7th at Towson University's Stephen Hall Theater. This project allows veterans to tell their stories and experiences of serving in the military. This veteran wanted to share the event with the Women's Center community because there will be many women's voices to hear at this event, from women in the military to wives and mothers of veterans. This is an issue that impacts women and it is important to listen to their voices and experiences. With this in mind, the Women's Center hopes you will consider attending. For more information, please visit: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=103350856415644>



Foundations of Leadership Development Class

Want to learn about your strengths and how to work more effectively with others? Want to get academic credit for learning how to help your student organization be more successful? Looking for a fun & interactive class to introduce you to the concepts of leadership? We have the class for you!

"Foundations of Leadership Development" (a 3-credit leadership class cross-listed as Psychology216 and Education 216) is being offered again this Fall semester on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:30pm- 3:45pm! This course is designed to help develop effective, ethical leaders. The principles and practices of leadership will be addressed, incorporating opportunities to implement what is learned. It is a highly interactive course that requires extensive in-class discussion. The main goals are to help students better understand themselves, develop intercultural competence, communicate effectively in group settings, develop an ethical decision making process, value civic engagement and actively apply leadership skills. Contact Dr. Nick Lennon (nlennon@umbc.edu) if you have any questions.

Summer and Fall Courses Offerings in Gender and Women's Studies!

Here's a run down of some of the GWST courses offered this summer and fall. This is NOT all of them so please contact GWST for more information!

Summer Courses!

GWST 290: Issues and Phases in Women's Health

First Six-Week Session: 5/31/2011 - 7/8/2011

Instructors Dr. Jodi Kelber-Kaye and Dr. Stacey Kargman

This course will provide an overview of issues in women's health as they occur in various phases of women's lives. Course material will focus on both the biological understandings and social meanings of puberty, menstruation, reproduction and menopause. We will discuss specific health issues that women face including chronic diseases, STDs, HIV/AIDS, and cancer. Throughout the course, we will address the specific health needs of women from different races, cultures, and ethnicities.

This online course is conducted entirely on Blackboard, UMBC's course management system.

GWST 322: Gender, Race, & Media

First Six-Week Session: 5/31/2011 - 7/8/2011; Tues/Thurs, 1pm-4pm; Shady Grove Campus; GEP/GFR: Meets AH

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Boswell

In this course we define media and analyze intersecting formations of gender, race, class and sexuality as produced through a range of media genres. These include, but are not limited to, advertisements and commercials, television and film, music and music videos, visual arts, and digital visual cultures. We interrogate media as powerful, pervasive sites where dynamic relations between dominant representations and resistant subject formations are staged. As consumers and producers of media, we learn to articulate the entanglement of social justice concerns, politics, and cultural and economic resources. We practice tools of critical reading and thinking, such as textual and visual discourse analysis, and the basics of media literacy.

GWST 390: Feminist International Relations

First Six-Week Session: 5/31/2011 - 7/8/2011

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Williams

This course will explore the ways in which assumptions about and fears of gender, race and sexual orientation are exploited and manipulated by a variety of constituencies to create and sustain nationalist narratives and relations between nation-states. We will also consider the ways in which feminist activists around the world have responded to the use of women's bodies and gender roles in nationalist projects.

Fall 2011 Courses!

GWST 210: Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies

Monday/Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Kate Drabinski

This course examines various lesbian and gay experiences in contemporary American society. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course examines historical origins and precedents, theoretical frameworks and contemporary case studies to understand the issues affecting the social relations between American society and lesbians and gays. Primary goals of the course are to conduct a critical inquiry into the patterns of lesbians' and gays' subordinate status, to explain their origins and persistence and to consider various routes for changing these patterns. Throughout the course, special attention will be given to the diverse experiences of lesbians and gays based on race, class and disability.

GWST 322: Gender, Race, and Media

T/TH 5:30-6:45pm

Instructor: Dr. April Householder

This course analyzes the consumption and production of media and the intersecting constructions of gender, race, class, and sexuality, as produced through a range of genres and forms. These include: advertisements and commercials, television and film, music and music videos, visual arts, printed media, gaming, and digital cultures. We use intersectional and critical analyses to raise questions such as: who owns and controls the media, who makes decisions about content, how financing effects the texts produced, and how profit motives drive production, in order to examine how people communicate, do business, buy products, entertain themselves, form virtual communities, and even organize politically. We will also interrogate media as powerful, pervasive sites where dynamic relations between dominant representations and resistance are staged. We explore how activists are using the media to create positive change, empower communities, and form democratic media cultures.

GWST 340: Global Perspectives on Gender and Women

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Instructor: Amy Bhatt

The course addresses gender issues in the local context of women's movements in several regions and countries around the world as articulated by feminist scholars within those countries. Taking a comparative perspective, the course considers the diversity of issues and perspectives within women's/feminist movements around the globe as well as the relationship between U.S. women and global feminist struggles. Interdisciplinary readings, including fiction and feminist theory, bring the gender perspective to global/international political and economic structures.

UMBC Women's Center

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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 :)

May 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.

- ◆ Mollie—Thank you for everything you've taught me since working for you. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you. Thank you so much for being so willing to help me in this transition. You have some big shoes to fill and you'll surely be missed! - Jess
- ◆ Thank you to everyone for welcoming me to my new position as Acting Director in the Women's Center. Your help, guidance, and support in my transition has been so helpful and appreciated! - Jess
- ◆ To Eryl, Kiesha, Mah, Alyssa, and Christy—Thanks for your patience and support through this transition. Let's rock out the last few weeks of the semester! - Jess
- ◆ To Mickey and Allison - for your work on Sexual Assault Awareness Month - thank you for including the Women's Center in the effort! We are thrilled to be a co-sponsor with you again. -Mollie and Jess
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped with staffing the Clothesline Project (Kim Leisey, Sabah, Elle Trusz, Sam Cordero, Jessica Guzman-Rea, Avery Brow, Caitlyn Leiter-Mason, Layci Howard, Lisa Macfarlane, Paul Dillon, Dana Perry, Christy Wilson, and KY). You were such a big help in making our event successful! - Jess
- ◆ Alyssa- Thanks for all your work on the film series... your due diligence in making sure we found the film for April was amazing! - Jess
- ◆ To Kat, Anna, and Lisa - for always being there when the Women's Center needs you. Your volunteer work is much needed and much appreciated! - Jess and Mollie
- ◆ Mah and Erin Butler—Thanks for organizing the Women's Center Relay for Life Team
- ◆ -Kudos to the Women's Center staff for "holding it together" and keeping up the energy during this time of transition! - Anna M.
- ◆ To Mollie Monahan-Kreishman: I'm going to miss you a lot! You're an amazing boss, friend, mentor, and an inspiration. You're an amazing role model and I wish you luck with the dissertation. Miss you! -Mah
- ◆ Jess: Congratulations!!! I look forward to working with you over the summer and the upcoming semesters. I'm really excited for some of the projects we will be working on! You're awesome and I love working with you! - Mah
- ◆ Kiesha: It has been awesome working with you, I'm going to miss you! Good luck in the fall in social work school (congratulations!!!) Come and visit us :) -Mah
- ◆ Alyssa: Thomas Jefferson and Sheila. Good times Alyssa. I'm going to miss you loads, good luck with your future endeavors, you're an amazing young woman and I looking forward to see what amazing things you're going to do. -Mah
- ◆ Jonathan Cruz- Thank you for being an awesome photographer and thank you for being an awesome presence in the Women's Center. Thank you for your love, guidance, help and patience. You're awesome! -Mah
- ◆ Mohsin Majid: Thank you for all your help this year with the Women's Center website, you're an amazing best friend and also an amazing male presence in the Women's Center. -Mah
- ◆ Anna Mallillin- I'm going to miss you over the summer if you're not around so make sure you're around! I'm so glad we grew to be friends over the past two semester, thank you for all your help with the Women's Center website! Good luck with everything and thank you for being such a great friend. P.S. Your spongebob coloring was totes cool :D -Mah
- ◆ Christy- You're look the cool big sister I've never had, I'm so glad we're friends and I love working with you. We're going to be the dynamic duo next semester! I can't wait to whip out your crafty talents, you're amazing! -Mah
- ◆ Simmi Singh- Can I say bestest roomie ever? I'm gonna miss waking up to you talking on the phone every morning and us borrowing each other's stuff and just being the coolest roomies :) -Mah
- ◆ Lisa Macfarlane- You're an amazing person, keep rocking and good luck with your grad school search *cough*cough* Have an amazing summer although I think I'll be seeing you a lot at the Women's Center :) -Mah
- ◆ Erin Butler- you're the most amazing ex-wife a girl could ask for. You gave me support, love and your friendship, I'm so lucky! I can't wait to see you more often in the summer. -Mah