

The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: September 2011

Letter from the Acting Director: Jess Myers



"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

I remember exactly how I felt the first time I walked into the Women's Center here at UMBC. I was still in the process of job searching since the move back to Baltimore from Colorado and a not-so-great economy had only landed me a part time job. I had set up an information interview with the current director, Mollie, to find out more about her professional journey and how she got to be director of a Women's Center—a dream job of mine. As soon as I came into the Center and sat in the lounge, a peace came over me. My worries hushed and for the first time in several months, I felt my heart smiling. This place had amazing energy, love, and strength. This was a place I wanted to work. Lucky for me, the Coordinator position was opening up, and even more lucky for me, I landed the job, and luckiest of all, I'm now in my dream job, directing to the Women's Center in it's 20th year. As I think back over the 20 years the Women's Center has been open, I can only imagine other similar stories in which the Women's Center has played a pivotal role. I believe it is those 100,000 stories that whispered in my ear, telling me I would be okay on my first visit to the Center and I believe it is those stories that still give me peace and strength every time I walk into this place.

Over the past 20 years, 100,000 individuals have walked through the Women's Center's doors—hence the year's theme of *100,000 Stories: Which One is Yours?* I encourage you over the

next year, to reflect on your own stories that were lived and told in the Women's Center. Please share them with others as a way to help us celebrate our birthday year. On the following pages, we've also included a summary of the Women's Center history so you can learn more about our own story. I also hope you'll attend one (or more!) of the several events this year that commemorate our 20th anniversary. The Center has been so fortunate to have so many great campus partners be a part of our celebration by donating their resources or tailoring their events to honor the Women's Center (for more information on these events and partners, please read on). Thank you for your support. The kick-off to all of these events will be held at noon on September 14th in the Women's Center backyard.

Recently, one of our recent graduates, Kat Patterson, came back to the Center to help us film for our digital story telling piece. I had the honor in introducing her to Simmona Simmons Hodo, one of the founding sisters of the Women's Center. As I told Kat about Simmona's role in the Women's Center, Kat put her hands over her heart and said, "Thank you. Without the Women's Center, my experience here would not have been as rich." It was a beautiful moment that I am grateful to experienced. And, as I stand here at this pivotal moment, I look back over the 20 years, but perhaps even more importantly, look forward to the next 20 years. I am hopeful for the new stories of gratitude and thanks that will be created and shared in the space that is the Women's Center.



Special points of interest:

- ☺ Welcome Back!!!
- ☺ Letters from the Director and Student Staff
- ☺ The 20th Anniversary Celebration Year is Here!!
- ☺ Women's Center Fundraiser
- ☺ Ongoing and Upcoming Events and Groups
- ☺ Community News
- ☺ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions
- ☺ Shout Outs!

We're 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!

Greetings from Our New Acting Coordinator: Galina



"Stories become a fabric of your whole soul. That is why they heal you." - Alice Walker

I truly believe in the power of stories.

Stories have the ability to enlighten, forge connections, inspire, and heal. They are also the bridges that connect the past and the future, allowing us to unite through shared experiences or to learn and develop compassion through newfound understanding. In fact, new findings out of neuropsychology help to explain the science behind the power of connecting through narrative. When we hear (and truly understand) another's story, our brains become synchronized and we can actually feel the story teller's emotions, rather than just hearing the words. Truly understanding one another's stories helps us build empathy and interpersonal connections. Think back to the last powerful story that you heard? What genuine emotions did it bring up for you?

I couldn't feel luckier than I currently do to begin my new position as Acting Coordinator at the Women's Center during its 20th anniversary,

a yearlong celebration honoring 100,000 stories through words, film, print, photography, performance, and service. Stories enrich lives, and I hope that the stories you hear, see, and feel this year through Women's Center programming will enrich your life in a meaningful way.

Although I will share a little about who I am with you now, I hope that this is just the beginning of our story-sharing and I get a chance to learn about you, too. I come to this position with years of interest and experience in women's issues and human rights. I am currently a graduate student in UMBC's psychology department, pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical and community/applied social psychology. I received my B.A. in 2006 from the University of Connecticut, where I completed a double major in Psychology & Women's Health with a minor in Women's Studies. Through my education and research, I began to understand the influence that context has, and just how much women's lives can be impacted by their environment. It became clear to me how oppressive and limiting some contexts can be for marginalized groups. Oppression can render individuals and groups voiceless, deny access to resources, limit safety, and perpetuate discrimination and inequality. I currently work in Dr. Anne Brodsky's Making Words Count research lab,

where we explore processes of resilience in the lives of Afghan women, and for my master's thesis, I am conducting research on sexual prejudice and anti-LGBTQ bullying in high schools. I also currently work at the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County where I provide individual and group therapy to survivors and offenders of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. My work as a researcher has helped me to understand women's experiences through their own stories, and as a therapist, I often find that giving voice to struggle is a powerful and motivating catalyst for change.

I am looking forward to bringing my experience in, and passion for, women's issues and human rights to my work at the Women's Center and being involved in programming that supports women and underserved groups on campus and in our community. I am also looking forward to hearing, seeing, and feeling the multitude of stories that will be honored this year. I'm in the Women's Center on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays - please stop by, introduce yourself, enjoy some free tea or coffee, and stay for our inspiring programming. We all have stories to share, come in and share yours with us.

TWENTY



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

"...the Women's Center will enhance the lives of people...It will be an advocate for women fighting persistent marks of social inequality and prejudice that limit their potential—whether they are students, staff, or faculty...There is no doubt that the Center will play an important role in attracting students to come to UMBC and in improving the quality of their university and subsequent careers."
-Angela Moorjani, Women's Center Committee member, 1991

UMBC is a diverse community with diverse needs. Since its founding in 1966, faculty, staff and students have felt the need to have a safe space on campus where resources, information, and materials could be accessed on issues relating to gender, equity, and justice. In creating the space, the Founding Committee for the Women's Center had to ask themselves important questions about establishing a Center in the first place. For instance: What services will be provided? Where will it be located? Who will run it? Where will funding be obtained? There was a strong consensus that a space was needed that was safe, provided advising, with special attention for returning women, offered information on women's health and area clinics, and was a meeting space for women's groups on campus. Its mission would be to assist women in achieving their full potential in education, work, and personal lives through personal empowerment, academic and intellectual growth, and professional development.

The Founding Committee went about answering these questions by gathering information about pre-existing Women's Centers and their functions. With this information, the Founding Committee was able to write a proposal and hold formal meetings with administrators to request space and funding support for a center.

The Committee made the Women's Center a reality in September 1991 when money from the Provost's Office was initiated to fund furniture and the salary of a part-time director. The Management Committee offered a space and contributed funds that established operating funds for the Center. Because of this funding, the support of campus departments, and the hard work of so many committed individuals, the Women's Center was first established on the second floor of GYM I, Room 207 (which was located in the same space the Commons currently stands). It consisted of four offices (a meditation/lactation room, the director's office, the Women's Union office and a storage room for files) and one large common room that was used as a multi-purpose space.

During this time the Women's Center stayed open through the help of a part-time director and the Women's Union, a feminist student organization, helped to enlist student volunteers who collectively contributed a total of 50 hours per week. In addition to hosting meetings and groups focusing on women's issues, the Center also provided meeting space for a variety of campus organizations. The Center worked to plan events, workshops and seminars; offered referrals; provided a library of books by and about women; and programs targeted at single parents, non-traditional students, and women of color. It was considered on campus to be an advocate for issues of concern to all people.

Over the next several years, the Women's Center showed its grace, agility, and flexibility with many changes. The leadership of the Center transitioned several times with many faculty and staff stepping in and up to support the Women's Center. Additionally, the Center moved several times, from its space in Gym II to a single room in the Chemistry/Physics Building to the second floor of the Math/Psych building, and then over to the Retriever Athletics Center, Room 226 before finally landing in its current home space, the Commons., in 2004. During its last two moves, is when the Center became complete with comfortable couches, a kitchenette, a meditation/lactation room with a hospital-grade breast pump, an extensive library of books, mostly donated by students, staff and faculty, chairs painted in a chair painting competition by women's groups on campus, an ever-present supply of dental dams, fe/male condoms, tampons, pads and alternative menstrual products, and resources and referrals ranging from sexual assault, caregiving, contraception, menopause, sexual orientation, gender awareness, scholarships, and counseling services.

Since its beginning, with only one volunteer staff member, the Women's Center has expanded into a much larger space with a full-time Director, a part-time Administrative Assistant & Coordinator, and student staff members. Programming has changed and grown to meet the needs of the community and the Women's Center staff commitments and responsibilities have also changed to complement the trends in higher education and society. Indeed, there is no doubt that the Women's Center commitment to providing space, programming and opportunities for the development of women (and subsequently all individuals) has remained true over the past 20 years. We look forward to another 20+ years!



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

FALL EVENTS

September 14
12pm

20th Anniversary Kick-Off Picnic

Women's Center Backyard
Free lunch for the first 150 people

September 28 @ noon
runs thru November 13

100,000 Stories: A Selection of Women Photographers from the UMBC Photography Collections

Albin O. Kuhn Library, Rotunda
Reception included after welcoming remarks

October 11
6-8pm

Evening Event Honoring Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Commons Main Street
Honor the stories of those impacted by relationship violence.
Guest Speaker: Bill Mitchell

October 15
2-3:30pm

Women's Center Homecoming Open House

Women's Center
A reception and a walk down memory lane

Fall [TBA]

Giving Back on Our Birthday: A Service Project

Provide much needed help and support at a local women's shelter

Fall [TBA]

Out to the Theatre!

A special event to honor the importance of stories sponsored through the Theatre Department

And more! Stay tuned throughout the semester for more exciting 20th Anniversary events and celebrations!

Save the Date! 20th Anniversary Spring 2012 Events

The Korneman Lecture, February 22, 2012
I out of 100,000: The Importance of One, March 14, 2012
Women in Technology: 2nd Annual Spring into Leadership Event, April 4, 2012
URCAD, April 25, 2012

Thank you to our many co-sponsors 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

Please visit [my.umbc.edu](http://my.umbc.edu/events/7005) to let us know if you'll be attending the kick-off event! <http://my.umbc.edu/events/7005>

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.
September dates will be: Sept 7, 21, and 28th.

A very special Mother/RW meeting will be Oct 5th in which a guest speaker will be discussion the multiple roles of women and how to navigate stressors and conversations.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS AND SPOTLIGHTS!

The Women's Center always finds it important to do our part in supporting our campus and community partners. Below are several events or updates from these partners that we feel are important for the Women's Center community to know. Please spread the word!

News from the Office of Student Judicial Programs:

This summer, a committee of subject-matter experts, which included student representation, reviewed the *Code of Student Conduct* and the *Code of Student Organization Conduct* and made recommendations which were accepted and adapted into the Code. It is the student's responsibility to know these changes. To read the highlights of this year's revisions, please visit:

<http://www.umbc.edu/sjp/pdfs/CodeChangeSummaryNewspaperAd.pdf>

News from QUMBC:

QUMBC is hoping that all interested students will attend The 7th Annual National OUT for Work LGBTQ College Student Career Conference. This event takes place September 24-25th in Washington, DC. QUMBC is looking into pricing to make sure it is as affordable as possible. For more information regarding this great conference and/or registering, please contact Alex at phillipalexanderdownie@gmail.com or check out the QUMBC group on my.umbc at <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/qumbc>.

News from The Career Center:

UMBC 2011 and 2012 graduates...YOU need to start your full-time job search in the FALL. Yes, the FALL! Employers will be on campus starting in early October looking for December 2011 AND May 2012 grads!

Make sure you attend the Senior Success Seminar to get prepared! This employer led event will be

held on Saturday, September 10th, 9:30am-3:00 pm to offer presentations, resume critiques and mock interviews. For more information, visit: <http://www.careers.umbc.edu/>

News from CWIT:

The Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) offers all women (and interested men) majoring in an engineering or computing major the opportunity to become a CWIT Affiliate. New first-year and transfer students can request a peer mentor. CWIT Affiliates are invited to participate in events and receive valuable information related to women in engineering and IT. For more information, visit: <http://www.cwit.umbc.edu/affiliates/>.

Campus Safety Awareness Month!

September is campus safety awareness month. Have you signed up for the campus emergency text alerts? Sign up via my.umbc... go to the alert tab and follow directions from there!

If you'd like to share news with the community in the next newsletter, email Jess at jess.myers@umbc.edu. We'll do our best to fit it in!

To celebrate the theme of our 20th Anniversary (100,000 Stories: Which One is Yours?), we'll be dedicating newsletter space each month to a campus office/program working to promote women/gender issues and featuring a story of a woman in our community. If you have suggestions, please contact Galina at portnoy1@umbc.edu

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, September 9th at noon in the Women's Center.

Looking for events to take your kids to? Visit: <http://www.kidstreetnews.com/>

NEW W.C. INITIATIVES

As mentioned in previous newsletters, over the summer, the Women's Center staff was hard at work getting ready for the fall. We're excited about all the great programming (aside from the 20th Anniversary events) we are able to offer the UMBC community this year. Read on for all the details:

New Initiative: Not Oprah's Book Club

We're hosting our very own *feminist* book club this year. We're hoping to read some great books about women and gender issues and have some great community discussions. The first book we'll be reading is *Cinderella Ate My Daughter* by Peggy Orenstein. The discussion will take place sometime in October after everyone has read so pick up your copy today. For more information, find us on Facebook or email Jess (jess.myers@umbc.edu) to be added to the book club list serv.

New Initiative: Body Image Series

UHS and the Women's Center has teamed up to create safe space on campus for students to discuss body image and its impact. In this 3-part series, we'll talk about how the media/society plays a role, explore our perceptions, and discuss self-confidence. The first discussion takes place in the Women's Center on Tuesday, September 20th at 7pm.

Back by popular demand!

The **Yoga Club** will be back in the Women's Center offering free yoga sessions 3 days a week. This is a first-come-first-serve program. Feel free to bring your own mat or you can use one from the Women's Center. Yoga will be held on Mondays at noon, Tuesdays at 6pm, and Thursdays at 9am.

HLSU will be hosting **Latin dance lessons** this fall on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30. This is another first-come-first-serve program and it seems be creating quite the buzz, so get here early to dance the night away!

And, as mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, **Returning Women meetings, Mother's Group meetings,** and an amazing **Fall Film Series** will still be taking place. We hope to see you there!

If your student group of office would like to hold meetings in the Center, please stop by and pick up a space reservation form. We'd love to have you and hopefully we can accommodate you in our space!

For all Women's Center events and happenings, check out our online calendar at <http://www.umbc.edu/womenscenter/calendar/index.html>.

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



Find us on Facebook: "women's center at umbc" and Twitter

WELCOME WEEK OPEN HOUSE AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

You're invited to our Open House during Welcome Week! Come see what the Women's Center has to offer and meet new people. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday
September 7, 2011
3:30pm-5:30pm

All are welcome!



Women's Center at UMBC - 410.455.2744 - www.umbc.edu/womenscenter - womenscenter@umbc.edu

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

Please note the change of times from the last newsletter. Changes were made to accommodate professor/class requests.

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; 11:30, 12:30 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 09/23; 11:00

Film Discussion: 9/23; 12:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Jill Schebler 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: Anayansi Prado & Kevin Leedingham. (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; 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 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 & Daiia 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 Meritogo 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; 12:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Dr. Jessica Guernán-Roa, 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 • womencenter@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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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 Fall Hours will be Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm and Fridays from 9-5pm.

September 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.

To Our Founding Sisters—Thank you for your diligent and dedicated work in advocating for and opening (and keeping open!) the Women's Center. The lasting impact you have made at UMBC is immeasurable. Here's to 100,000 stories and counting! - Jess

The Women's Center Advisory Board— Thank you to all those who could make the retreat. It was a great day to learn about each other and spend time together in the Center. I'm looking forward to a great year! - Jess
An enormous thanks to **Patrica DelValle and Capital One Bank** for their recent financial donation to the Center. Thank you for believing in the work we do for the UMBC community. —The Women's Center

Mah Siddiqui—We're so sorry you're not able to be a part of our staff family anymore. You will be missed. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you've done (and we're sure you'll continue to do) for the Women's Center. - Jess and the Women's Center Staff

Kayla Keelan— Thanks for much for your collaboration and ideas for a ser-

vice learning project for the 20th Anniversary. I'm really excited for the Women's Center to give back as part of our birthday celebration.—Jess

Diane Lee—Thank you for the confidence you instill in me each and every time we talk.—Jess

Laura Shraven—You know the drill ;) Our gratitude for you and the work you've done for the 20th is constant and immeasurable! - Jess

Delanna Gregg, Carole McCann, Lee Calizo, Simmona Simmons, Mah, and Eryl—Thanks for being the first ones to be filmed for the 20th Anniversary event. Your stories will make this work in progress a successful one! **Stefanie M. and Drew**— As always, thanks for being flexible with your schedules to help film! -Jess

Lizzy Wuncsh and Lisa MacFarlane—Welcome to our staff. We look forward to getting to know you better and can't wait to see the great things you'll do for the Center and our community! **Christy Wilson**—As always, thank you for all you do. You are the heart of the Women's Center and I look forward to another great year! -Jess

Eryl— As always. Thank you! - Jess

Galina Portnoy—Thank you for representing the Women's Center and playing storm duty during Retriever Fest. I appreciate you stepping in last minute so that new students were able to get information about our Center! I'm so excited to have you on our team! - Jess

Darlene Davis— for always being helpful when I have got stuck with something to do with payroll.—Eryl

Lisa MacFarlane—Thank you for helping me with my computer problems. -Eryl

Jess, Eryl, Christy, Mah, Lisa, & Lizzy—Thank you for the warm welcome and support! I am very much looking forward to working with you brilliant women this semester! -Galina

Happy 1st Birthday to Phoebe, our littlest Women's Center "frequent flier." It's been an honor to watch you grow up over the past year and you and your family are so special to us! -Jess

To All Our New Students—Welcome! We hope your first semester on campus is fabulous. We're glad to have met so many of you already. We hope we become an important part of your time here at UMBC! - The Women's Center