



VOICES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND THE WRITING INTERN

In joining the team at the Women's Center, Katie and I had a vision of connecting the women on this campus through this one media thread. At the Women's Center, we like to say that empowered women empower other women. This was the big mission statement we had in mind while putting this newsletter together for our readers. We are empowered and inspired by every young, motivated and hardworking woman who walks this campus, and we hoped that this newsletter will show them that they are not alone in their goals of making this campus, and this world, a better place. Through our work here, we've learned invaluable lessons about feminism and had access to incredible events. We will never stop working to bring equality to the sexes, and we will never stop trying to inspire others to do the same. *Voices* is our attempt at doing that.

By: Katie DePalma and Jackie Nappo

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS	2-11
TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS	12
FAT TALK FREE WEEK	13-14
100 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP	15-16
WOMEN'S CENTER OPEN HOUSE	17
START SMART SALARY NEGOTIATION WORKSHOPS	18-19
BOOK REVIEWS	20-21
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR	22
STAFF TESTIMONIALS	23-24
PHOTO CREDITS	25-26



Photo One

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PROGRAM (VAWPP)

My name is Miranda Garcia, and I am a tentative Political Science major because I've always been interested in politics and wanted to go into a field where I could make a difference. I'm proud of how compassionate I have come to be; I like putting other people before myself, and I am very understanding. Feminism, to me, is the equitable treatment of all genders; it's everyone respecting everyone else despite how they identify, including race, gender, sexual orientation, ability.



My name is Asadie Walters, and I am currently studying Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies. I have always been interested in the way the mind works, and I've also always had an interest in how individuals can develop based on their familial experiences. To me, feminism means equality for all where no one is disadvantaged because of race, gender or sexuality. I can't wait to work here at the Women's Center with other people who understand that.

My name is Sara DeFazio, and I am a double major in Sociology and Human Rights because I want to help fight for the rights of people who are not able to do so for themselves. Feminism to me is equality between all women, for all women, and the freedom to express who you are no matter what your gender identity is. I'm proud of my ability to listen to and respect other people's perspectives. Although we may disagree, I love to discuss things that push my boundaries.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: VAWPP



My name is Banu Bayraktar, and I am a Geoscience major because I love being outside, and I love the environmental field. To me feminism is being able to be strong, free, and unapologetically myself. For the first 2 years I had worked at the Women's Center, I really wanted to be VAWPP facilitator, but I never thought I'd have the time or qualifications to do so. So this semester, I am really looking forward to finally being able to participate in this position that I never thought I'd have the chance to do.

My name is Jessica Kraus, and I am a senior. I am a Physiology and Neurobiology major, and I hope to start a career in neurobiology research soon! To me, feminism is promoting intersectional gender equity. That means that regardless of race, sexuality, citizenship status, socioeconomic status, etc., all genders should be equal. It also means fighting against today's "gender norms" so that everybody can be their true selves regardless of how our society labels them. I am looking forward to getting to know all the new Women's Center staff and everybody who comes into the Women's Center this semester!



My name is Esther (Zeqing) Shao. I am currently undecided. I'm a foreign study student, and feminism is not something that many of my friends or family have paid attention to. I am very proud to learn about it and be a feminist. I am looking forward to challenging myself in my work here. I'm not a great public speaker, and English is my second language so communicating in general makes me nervous sometimes.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: VAWPP

My name is Jessie Sanzo, and I am currently studying Pre-Kinesiology with the hope of eventually going into the medical field. I believe feminism is acknowledging that there is a gender gap in our everyday lives and working towards fixing it. One thing I look forward to this semester at the Women's Center is the ability to meet more and more people and continue to learn how to be a better activist. There is always something more to learn, and the Women's Center provides a great resource.



My name is Kristina Drollinger, and I am double majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Human Rights because I wanted an education that would provide me with the skills and knowledge that will prepare me to work in an environment centered on preventing and ending gender-based violence. Feminism is accountability, and I am looking forward to getting to know the Women's Center student staff and working with the VAWPP cohort to create a space where we can engage in discussion with first-year students about consent, gender, and why they both matter.

S. D. - I am a Psychology major because I want to be able to help other people. As a person I am proud that I am very empathetic of others as I always try to hear people out and listen to their needs. Feminism to me means being able to advocate for yourself or others. It means making sure your voice is heard regardless of your race, class or gender. It means standing up for equality.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: VAWPP



My name is Mik Garvin, and I'm a Communications major minoring in Business and Entrepreneurship. I try to go to as many Women's Center run events as possible. Last year, I helped to plan Take Back The Night in the spring, and I was so inspired to see how the center impacts so many people on campus. To me, feminism means equality for people of all identities.

My name is Alida Ballou, and I am a double Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies major because both compliment each other in studying how people work/why we are the way we are! A characteristic about myself that I am proud of is that I stand up for what I love and believe in, even if this may not be others' favorite characteristic about me. I've learned to love myself for it. Feminism, to me, is everyone's right to choose their path and their life regardless of gender. Being able to be yourself and follow the path that suits you best so you feel good in your skin because everyone deserves to have that privilege.



My name is Julia Wilson. I am currently double majoring in Human Development and Family Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with hopes of becoming a social worker. People usually don't expect this, but I used to be a trainer for seeing eye dogs! What feminism means to me is working to end sexism and taking into account all of the other intersections of identity. I can't wait to grow closer with the other VAWPP staff and be part of this amazing center.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: VAWPP

My name is Chrystal Sparks, and I want to be a Social Worker at the Department of Children and Families. I'm proud that I care about people, and I try to understand their experiences as best I can. Feminism to me is the empowerment of women of all kinds in a society that tries to subliminally take away their power. It's equity for all genders. I also would love to see the end to gender-based violence because it is horrible that we live in a world that people, especially women can be so personally victimized in order to maintain power structures.



My name is Feny Rasania, and I am a Pathobiology major with a Molecular and Cell Biology minor to explore my interests in medicine, as I will attend medical school after graduation. Instead of simply understanding the intricacies and complexities of the human body, my passion lies in investigating how the human body changes functionally and biochemically when it interacts with a microorganism/microbe. In three words, feminism to me means equality, justice, and respect. Women deserve the right to their own body, health, education, and opportunity. I want nothing more or less than for a baby to start a life with the same rights, expectations, hopes, dreams and desires regardless of their sex or gender.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: BETWEEN WOMEN

My name is Alyssa Marini. I am a double English and Sociology major because I want to become a social worker. Currently, I am the Between Women Facilitator at the Women's Center. If I could, I would live at Hogwarts and begin my magical studies. To me, feminism is equality for all, and I am proud of my leadership role at the Women's Center.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: GREEKS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



My name is Lindsey Vieweg. I am currently studying Elementary Education. I picked this because I hope to one day change our education system and positively impact the lives of children. I believe that feminism means fighting for equality for all, and I'm looking forward to helping others learn and grow and in turn helping myself do the same through my time here.

My name is Alyssa Pingitore, and I am a Psychology, B.S. because mental health is just as important as physical health. Currently, I am researching medication-resistant schizophrenia and hope to earn my Ph.D. after graduating from UConn. Feminism to me is intention and action that bring us closer to equality of the sexes on all levels- in personal life, public life, legal rights, and so on. Feminism is not a radical movement or a dirty word; it is something everyone should believe in and can benefit from.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: OUTREACH COMMITTEE



My name is Steph Goebel, and I am currently studying Political Science with a minor in Communication. With these, I hope to one day be able to make macro-level changes to society. I'm an introvert, and I like to think that I am a fast learner. To me, feminism means crushing systems of oppression to achieve equity in all realms. In terms of what I'm most looking forward to here, I would have to say I can't wait to meet new people who also want to change the world.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: INTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

My name is Holly LaBrecque, and I am a double major in Psychology and Neuroscience, and I run cross country here at UConn. To me, feminism means equality for all, and I can't wait to build lasting relationships with other members of the Women's Center and having a positive impact on the female community at UConn.



My name is Jenny Giri, and I am an English major because I've loved books and reading since I was little. In addition to being an internal relations committee chair, I'm also a VAWPP facilitator. To me, feminism is the idea that gender shouldn't matter as much as it does in the world today, and that no one should be treated any differently based on their gender or sex. This semester I am most looking forward to seeing how the committees improve efficiency at the Women's Center and building strong relationships within the center.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: WOMEN IN STEM MENTOR PROGRAM

My name is Kavya Katugam, and I am a Biomedical Engineering major, with concentrations in Biomechanics and Biosystems, Imaging, and Instrumentation, and minors in Mathematics and Electronics and Systems. Feminism to me is every person being equal, regardless of how they identify and is a space to celebrate individuals for the unique intersectionality that they occupy. I am looking forward to being better equipped to promote and support feminism. I am also looking forward to growing as a facilitator, both in skill and in confidence.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: MARKETING COMMITTEE



My name is Ming Montgomery, and I am the Marketing Committee Co-Chair here at the Women's Center. I am a Digital Media and Design major because I wanted to combine creativity and business. I am a hard worker, and to me feminism means promoting equality for all women and showing them the support and encouragement that they need to be successful. I am very excited to get to know all the staff here this semester!

My name is Tahreem Ali, and I am the Co-Chair of the Marketing Committee here at the Women's Center. To me, feminism is a mission towards gender equality. I hope to one day run a non-profit organization, and to get there I'm currently studying Finance and Human Rights. I'm so excited to be working with all the amazing people here and to learn more about their beliefs and ideas.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: WRITING INTERN



My name is Jackie Nappo, and I am currently studying Communication and Journalism. To me, feminism means promoting intersectional sisterhood above all else, and doing everything to empower other women. The best part about working at the Women's Center is meeting other women who also want to empower others and using my voice and theirs to persist and resist.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

My name is Kiana Akhundzadeh, and I am a Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience major because I want to unlock the mysteries of the brain and discover what makes humans click. Feminism is a very simple concept to me. It means equality for all, regardless of race, sex, gender, class or ability. I am proud of my empathy. To be empathetic is to be human, and I believe I've managed to be that thus far. My empathy is important to me because it is how I connect with others in a very real and beautiful way. No matter what situation I'm in, I'm always able to see it from the perspective of the other person.



My name is Alexa Lugo, and I am a Finance major because as I was growing up my family always used to point out that I was good at saving money. My favorite subject throughout elementary and middle school was math and I was always interested in how a business functions. Since I was interested in all three elements, I decided to focus on finance. To me, feminism is accepting differences between individuals and valuing those individuals on the sole basis that they are human and deserve the same respect and opportunities as everyone else.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

My name is Katie DePalma, and I am a double Communications and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major with an English minor. I am proud of my ability to be true to myself. I have found that despite any situation I will always do what I think is the right thing, and I will never change my beliefs to make someone else happy. To me feminism, is fighting for basic human liberties that are not something that should have to be earned, but something that should be freely given because every human life is equal and every person deserves the same opportunities.



STAFF SPOTLIGHTS: THE MEN'S PROJECT



My name is Rhys Hall. I'm currently in my second year of a Ph.D. program in Sociology, something I picked because I hope to make changes in racial heteronormativity. To me, feminism means justice and integration. I can't wait to engage this year with men who want to learn more about that.

My name is Craig Mario Alejos. I am in the Master's program majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. I love the work my major does and want to continue family research to hopefully improve future families. Feminism to me? Well, being a single parent most of my adult life, I'd basically say that there should be equality for all. I would love for my kids to grow up in a world that didn't discriminate or hate others. That's the kind of world I'm working towards.



Photo Two

TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS

By: Jackie Nappo

Mental health is one of the most prevalent issues facing college campuses. The Women's Center has made self care and emotional support one of it's most important resources to the campus community, which is why this year the Women's Center co-sponsored Suicide Prevention Week at the University of Connecticut.

The Women's Center sponsored a free screening of the film *To Write Love on Her Arms* accompanied by a discussion of the subject matter. The movie stars Kat Dennings as Renee, a Florida woman who struggles with addiction and abuse. The movie is based on the true story of the rise of the movement, *To Write Love on Her Arms*, whose humble beginnings were on Myspace. It started with Jamie Tworkowski wanting to tell the story of a friend who was struggling to cope with mental health issues. He published her story on Myspace and began selling t-shirts to raise money for her treatment.

Tworkowski was the keynote speaker of Suicide Prevention Week, brought to UConn by the Suicide Prevention Committee. In Tworkowski's passionate keynote, he made it clear to his audience that we are meant to interact with others, to love others, and to be part of a community.

UConn understands the necessity of a community, which is why there is a group dedicated to supporting those recovering from addiction. The UConn Recovery Community is an inclusive community for students looking to recover from addictive behaviors through activities, community building and support. To learn more, visit: <https://urc.uconn.edu/>

Additionally, the Women's Center is an inclusive safe space for any person who needs to find help or resources. We can be reached at 860-486-4738.

HOPE IS REAL. HELP IS REAL.
YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT.

Photo Three

FAT TALK FREE WEEK

By: Jackie Nappo

This year on October 15, Fat Talk Free Week commenced at UConn. Fat Talk Free Week is a full week on campus punctuated with events that promote self love, and ends with UConn SHAPE's Cat Walk To End Fat Talk, a fashion show whose goal is to help college students feel beautiful in their own skin.

The goal of Fat Talk Free Week is to create a consciousness of language. However, what exactly is Fat Talk? Giuliana David, SHAPE member of four years, tells us that it is any form of a put down directed at oneself. "Fat talk very negatively affects the university community," she says. "You are your toughest critic, so when you're talking down to yourself, you start to see all these terrible things when they simple are not true."

In an effort to eliminate Fat Talk, the Women's Center worked to put on two events that align with the mission of the week. On Tuesday, we held our Big Fat Detox, an event which focused on media literacy, and the way the media shapes our perceptions of our bodies. The discussion centered around social media and how its use creates new perceived standards for its users. They also discussed Photoshop, retouching and other digital alterations that contribute to false body expectations. (Continued on p. 14)



Photo Four

**LOVING YOURSELF IS THE
GREATEST REVOLUTION**



Photo Five



Photo Six



All bodies are beautiful

Photo Seven



FAT TALK FREE WEEK

Continued from page 13

In addition, to the event, we decorated our display case with pictures of Women's Center workers holding signs saying what they love about themselves. The signs they were holding, as well as the framed photos, were put in the display case with a sign on the top that said, "Fat Talk Free Week."

Fat Talk might seem like a small issue, but it is symptomatic of a larger problem. David says that it's not just a way of speaking, it is an entire mentality that contributes to low self-esteem. "[You should] actively practice self love in your everyday life," she says. "Because you deserve to be happy and have the best understanding of how valuable you are."



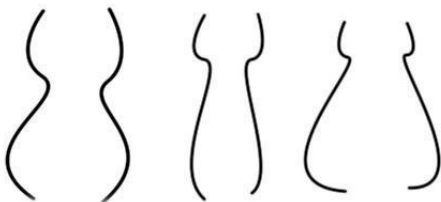
Photo Eight



Photo Nine

START WITH BODY ACCEPTANCE

I pledge
to love myself
no matter what
shape I'm in.



120-in-june.tumblr.com

Photo Ten

FAT TALK

THE ONE TIME YOU SHOULDN'T
FOLLOW THE CROWD

End the
conversation!



HealthyHelperBlog.com

Photo Eleven

100 YEARS OF WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP MEGAN HANDAU

By: Katie DePalma

Established in 1992, the 100 years of Women Scholarship was created by the UConn's Women's Center to honor upstanding women in our community. One of the 2017 recipients of this award is UConn senior, Megan Handau.

Megan Handau is the President of Alpha Epsilon Phi's Alpha Xi Chapter and an Honors Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major. A brief Q&A with the Women's Center Newsletter Editor and Handau is featured below.



Photo Twelve

1. What is feminism to you?

"It is the ways in which people conceptualize fighting or combating patriarchy. However, due to learning about intersectional feminism, black feminism in the American context, and the other forms of feminism my definition of feminism has changed. Feminism to me is taking advantage of the rights other women before me have fought for and furthering those rights for the women that come after me."

2. Why did you apply for this scholarship?

"I was on the Women's Center website and I saw the scholarship, and its basis was to furthering the rights of women and all of my college career I have tried to focus in on things pertaining to women. I am a WGSS major, I did the WGSS program in South Africa and volunteered for an organization called Right 2 Know in Capetown. I wrote an internal activist sexual harassment policy for Right 2 Know; they adopted it and use it nationally; and it can be found on their website. I interned for female Congresswoman, Elizabeth Esty twice, once in New Britain and once in D.C. Additionally, I made Ready For Hillary a student organization on campus." (Continued on p. 16)



Photo Thirteen

100 YEARS OF WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP MEGAN HANDAU

Continued from page 15

3. *What are your aspirations for the future?*

"I want to go to law school. I am going to take a gap year and hope to focus on immigration law or criminal justice. I want to work in the interest of the public, and I want to do all my work pro-bono. I may work as a public defender or in a non-profit organization. I am interested in supporting women who are running for office or working for women in Congress."

4. *What did getting this scholarship mean to you?*

"I was really excited, especially being in college and always wondering if I am doing the right things? The spring of my junior year, when I got the award, I was really excited because I realized it wasn't just me ranting, what I have been doing has meant something. When you spend so much time working, it is nice to know that someone sees what you are doing as meaningful."



Photo Fourteen



Photo Fifteen



Photo Sixteen

5. *What is something you love about yourself?*

"I am a good leader, which is something I have learned about myself through college. Being a leader is something that I do, something that means something to me. I view it as helping people empower themselves to get to a common goal."

WOMEN'S CENTER OPEN HOUSE

By: Katie DePalma



Photo Seventeen

**VISIT US AT SU
ROOM 421!**

The Women's Center Open House took place on August 26, 2017 from 4-6 p.m. in the Program Room. The goal of the Open House was to educate first year students on the programs the Women's Center offers. Throughout the afternoon, eager groups of first year students came to the Women's Center and learned from our staff how they can get involved in the Center. The Open House was a great, informative way for first year students to use the Center as a resource or become involved with the center early on in their college career.

The Women's Center program room was set up in a U shape and the different programs the Center offers: Women in Stem (WiSTEM) Mentoring Program, Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP), the Men's Project, Greeks Against Sexual Assault, Between Women, and other volunteer opportunities were on the side of the U. In addition, Dairy Bar ice cream was at the curve of the U.

Overall, the Open House was very successful, with many students signing up to become involved with the Women's Center.

Women's Center staff member Chrystal Sparks represented VAWPP during the Open House commented, "I really enjoyed seeing people who were very interested in the Women's Center, especially VAWPP. There was one student who didn't even let me finish my explanation of what VAWPP was before she grabbed the pen and excitedly wrote her name on the email list."

Another Women's Center staff member, Asadie Walters, who also represented VAWPP, described the success of the event from her perspective, "I was able to share my experience at the Women's Center and let first year students know that the Center is a thing before school even started. Getting involved early is key."

The Women's Center is a community of acceptance and expression, the Open House worked to show this holistically to first year students. If you are not yet involved with the Center, check out our website.

START SMART SALARY NEGOTIATION WORKSHOPS

By: Alex Dutro-Maeda

The Women's Center finished our first Start Smart workshop of the semester!

Start Smart is a salary negotiation workshop series from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Start Smart workshops provide women with the tools they need to effectively negotiate their first salaries. The Women's Center runs monthly Start Smart workshops throughout the academic year, open to any students. In each session, we aim to make sure that participants leave with the following:

- 1) An understanding of the gender pay gap as it affects women of different identities and the effects the pay gap has on women's long-term financial security.
- 2) Tools for gauging their market worth in the job-seeking process and developing a personal brand based on their own skills and experience.
- 3) Tools for developing a personal budget and determining the salaries and benefits they need based on cost of living, location and lifestyle.
- 4) Strategies for successfully negotiating salary and benefits in their first jobs (and the rest of their careers!)
- 5) Increased confidence in tackling both the job-seeking process and salary negotiation.

In a typical workshop, our facilitators spend 60 - 75 minutes discussing various tools and strategies for determining market worth, creating a personal brand, and researching salary and benefits. Then, participants learn concrete negotiation techniques. In the final portion of the workshop, participants get to practice those negotiation techniques through role-play, in order to find their own personal style of negotiating. (Continued on p. 19)

AAUW
STARTSMART
salary negotiation for students

Photo Eighteen

Continued from page 18



Photo Nineteen

The first workshop of the year took place on October 11 with fourteen people in attendance. In the lively role-play section, participants took turns pretending to be employers and employees and practiced the deflecting and negotiating techniques covered earlier in the workshop. One major step of getting ready to negotiate is to “practice, practice, practice!” and the role-play exercise showed why; several students said that the negotiation was hard, even when it was a good friend sitting across from them instead of a potential employer.

Wrapping up the workshop, participants reviewed the steps in the negotiation process and resources from both the presentation and their take-home workbooks. Michelle Meek, a graduate student getting ready to start her job search, commented that she now felt more comfortable navigating both the job search and eventual salary negotiations. “I felt like I walked away with more tools to prepare myself and be more confident in getting what I want out of a job offer!”

There will be more Start Smart workshops in the spring, so check out the Women’s Center website for more information!



Photo Twenty

BOOK REVIEW
WHAT HAPPENED

By: Jackie Nappo

This past election was one of the most divisive in American history. Those who were left on the losing 300,000 side felt helpless, hopeless and disillusioned including, if not especially, Hillary Clinton herself.



Photo Twenty-one

As a way of coping, she went on record saying that wine was a big help, and who could blame her? But, she also wrote her most personal memoir yet, titled *What Happened*. The reviews were incredibly mixed, many of which came on Twitter from people who have not read the book, but felt that Clinton needed to “get over it” and accept that she lost.

Success, however, is in the numbers. The book was released in September, and immediately topped *Barnes & Noble*, *USA Today* and *Amazon's* best seller lists. It sold 300,000 copies in its first week. Perhaps her naysayers are the ones who need to get over it.

What Happened is a personal account of what it was like to be the first female presidential candidate for a major party. It looks at the failures of her campaign strategy, and it takes down James Comey, Bernie Sanders and the Russian Spying initiatives. It is a feminist read that discusses the life of a strong woman in politics, and its existence by itself is a lesson to feminists everywhere. No one was upset about Bernie Sanders' post election memoir; people were up in arms about Clinton's.



Photo Twenty-two

What Happened is an important read for people everywhere who believe that sexism and misogyny played a role in what happened in November 2016. It is an important read for those who wish to go into politics, especially women. It is an important read for people who want to know what happened and how what seemed like it was a done deal ended up being the biggest plot twist in American history. It is an important read for everybody, period.

BOOK REVIEW
THE HANDMAID'S TALE

By: Jackie Nappo

An oldie but goody, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood is a cautionary tale of oppression and patriarchal values run rampant. The story focuses on a theocratic and totalitarian state that has replaced the United States in the aftermath of environmental disasters that severely impacted national fertility rates. Handmaids are women assigned to elite couples for the purpose of reproduction. A handmaid must have sex with the man in the couple when she is fertile in hopes of eventually carrying a child. Women and handmaids alike have no rights and no purpose in this eerie society apart from having sex with men to reproduce and restore the population.

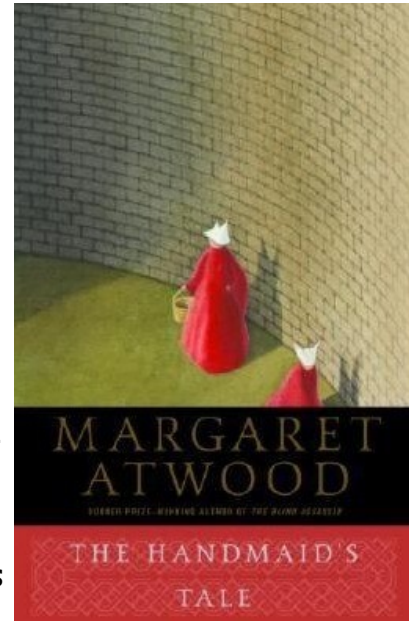


Photo Twenty-three

The book became a topic of conversation once again when Hulu created a series adaptation on their streaming service of the book. The idea of a society ravaged by environmental and human rights tragedies is eerily relatable in our country today, making *The Handmaid's Tale* a gripping read that leaves you feeling like you have a lot at stake.

The Handmaid's Tale answers the questions that we are all afraid to ask. How far can the home of the free go towards the other side? And, what is it going to take to get us there? The book presents an unapologetic and unbounded nightmare scenario that several feminists have thought of in their darkest moment: just how much oppression of women can this culture stomach, and will anyone be able to slow it down? Margaret Atwood is a brilliant and fearless Canadian writer who has been a champion of feminism since the movement took hold in the 1960s. Reading her prose (and poetry because she has some of that, as well) is a great way to support strong, women in the industry of literature. In a society where George Orwell's *1984* jumps to people's minds when talking about eerily familiar dystopia, pick up Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* to see that women can write scathing political allegories, as well.



Photo Twenty-four

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Kathleen Holgerson

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2017-18 academic year and to a new look for the newsletter, which reflects the vision of our new hires, Newsletter Editor, Katie DePalma, and Writing Intern, Jackie Nappo. Katie and Jackie spent time reviewing other women-centered online media and past editions of *Voices* to get inspiration for the new design. The addition of more graphics, quotes and highlights from others on campus who are working to promote gender equity, and book reviews are some of the changes of note. We're always interested in your feedback and suggestions, so please share either and/or both with Katie at student5800@ad.uconn.edu

Much of this edition focuses on introducing you to the new and returning student staff at the Center. This year we established a new committee structure to create more opportunities for student engagement with the Center beyond working here. The committees includes:

- ▽ Marketing, which is helping to enhance our social media profile;
- ▽ Outreach, which is responding to the many requests we get to share information about our programs and services;
- ▽ Programming, which is highlighting students' perspectives on new and existing educational events organized by the Center; and
- ▽ Internal Relations, which is working to build the sense of community among the Center staff through professional development and social activities.

You can expect to hear more about their progress in future editions.

Finally, as always, we spotlight some of the programs from earlier in the semester that are in the service of our mission to promote gender equity. In this time of deep divisions among people, sweeping natural disasters, and the ever-growing visibility of sexist behavior and gender-based violence—as in the 45 years of Center herstory that preceded this time—we continue to explore how to hold connection and conflict at the same time. Our work to transform the systems that reinforce access for some, but not others—in fact, to work ourselves out of business—that work continues. While we don't always get it right, we are committed to creating space to try. We hope you will find some inspiration in our efforts to make a difference in your community.

TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR STAFF

"I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge about feminism and meeting my peers who are on the same page as me. I've always felt more alone in my interest in feminism and being an activist, so becoming part of the WC was important to me to meet people who have the same goals and interests as me."

-Kiana Akhundzadeh

"The Women's Center is one of the only places on campus that feels like home to me. I can talk with like-minded individuals and friends and feel like myself. I learn and teach in tandem and there has never been a feeling like it anywhere else on this campus for me. I wish everyone would come to the Women's Center"

-Craig Alejos

"I am most looking forward to meeting new people and making new friendships with the people I work alongside with. The Women's Center is such a nurturing and happy place and I can't wait to see the relationships I build this year!"

-Alida Ballou

"I found that the Women's Center provided me with a deeper understanding of other people's struggles, a place to find comfort amidst my own struggles, and space where I could feel comfortable."

-Sara Defazio



Photo Twenty-five

TESTIMONIALS FROM
OUR STAFF

“Women's Center relationships are so awesome because they give you a space to discuss things you wouldn't normally bring up in casual conversation and learn from one another.”

-Alyssa Pingitore

“I participated in the WiS Mentoring Program. I met an amazing mentor who I still keep in contact with today. She helped me get to where I am now and I wouldn't be going to medical school without her help! I'm very thankful for the WiS Program for introducing me to such ambitious and inspiring women in STEM.”

-Feny Rasanía

“I am most looking forward to forming relationships with my co-workers here at the Women's Center. I am also excited to see how the first-year students respond to the workshops that we will be facilitating this year.”

-Chrystal Sparks



Photo Twenty-six

PHOTO CREDITS

Photo One

<http://www.joellecharming.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/IWD.png>

Photo Two

<http://moderngirlblitz.tumblr.com/post/49882599015/365-ways-of-feminism-day-308-go-girl>

Photo Three

<https://cdn1.twloha.com/images/mantra2.jpg>

Photo Four

<http://www.collegemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CMpic2.jpg>

Photo Five

https://romancingtheroadtorecovery.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/10157178_10152748236910041_1625548426364901371_n.jpg

Photo Six

<https://tenthstreetdinner.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/friends-dont-fat-talk.jpg>

Photo Seven

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Photo Nine

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Photo Ten

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Photo Eleven

<http://healthyhelperblog.com/fat-talk/>

PHOTO CREDITS

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<http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/news/>

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<http://9to5.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/equal-pay-day.jpg>

Photo Twenty
<http://www.dormco.com/v/vspfiles/photos/2400-1292-A227-2.jpg>

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<https://www.businessdayonline.com/mrs-hillary-clinton-lost-election/>

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