



VOICES

OCTOBER 2018

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

By: Katie DePalma

Earlier this week, I was talking with my mom about the Kavanaugh case, and she told me that when she was young, “Women were just happy to be working, happy to not have to sit home all day, and happy to at least feel equal.” That was as far as the feminist movement was able to move at that time. However, the world is not the same as it once was. Women are rising. Women are no longer scared of the repercussions of speaking their mind. Feminism is no longer a dirty word. More women are running for office in Connecticut and throughout the United States than ever before. “Me too” has become a household statement and a rallying cry from all women that screamed in unison that enough is enough. Women have found their voice within a government that seeks to silence them. I urge you to find your voice and to remember you are not alone in the fight for equality. Now is the time to come out of the woodwork, to claim autonomy of our bodies and our futures. It is time to find our seat at the table, and not let anyone tell us that we do not deserve to be there. Because we do, and it is unfair that we have been marginalized for so long within the household, the workforce, and the government. But not anymore. The future is full of potential, and it is our time to triumph.



Photo One

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Kathleen Holgerson

The subject of gender has been front and center in the national news recently, which makes it an interesting time to work at a Women's Center. At first, I hadn't planned to write much, as so many other folks have weighed in on the impact on the climate for survivors of sexual assault; on the "war between the genders;" and on the polarization of national politics. What I do want to spend some time exploring is what I am hearing and seeing here at UConn.

In talking with students on campus, many of them are feeling overwhelmed and saddened by the current state of affairs. And yet, they really don't want to talk about it. As one student said at the Community Coffee House we hosted on October 12th, "I do, but I don't. I'm afraid I'm going to get too upset." What we had anticipated would be a space for survivors to share their stories and for the community to explore what next, turned out to be a more quiet space with lots of coloring for self-care.

In talking with folks who are beyond the 18 - 22 year old demographic, I hear a lot of anger, frustration, and talk about feeling like they need to "do something." We have received a notable increase in the number of people expressing interest in getting involved with our Advisory Board. I worry that for individuals who have experienced trauma and/or who have lived through previous national conversations about gender and gender-based violence that we are asking them to focus on what is going on for the students, perhaps at their own expense.

Of course, I have to acknowledge my own biased position on this. I started doing intervention and prevention work related to gender equity when I was in college. During my tenure at the Women's Center there have been other similar occasions where gender has permeated the national news.

We hosted programs exploring the intersections of race and gender during the OJ Simpson trial. Anita Hill has spoken at least twice on campus about her experiences of sexual harassment and testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Now almost 30 years later, we are having a similar conversation about the importance of women sharing their stories and how identity and power play out. It's been 20 years since I was asked to speak at a community event in response to the murder of Matthew Shepard. And it's been 28 months since I was asked to speak at a solidarity event in response to the mass shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.
(Continued on p. 3)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Continued from page 2

This past summer I found myself purchasing a couple of bumper stickers- something I used to do, but haven't for quite a while. I didn't realize then how much these two would encapsulate how it feels to do Women's Center work at this moment in time:

To start with:

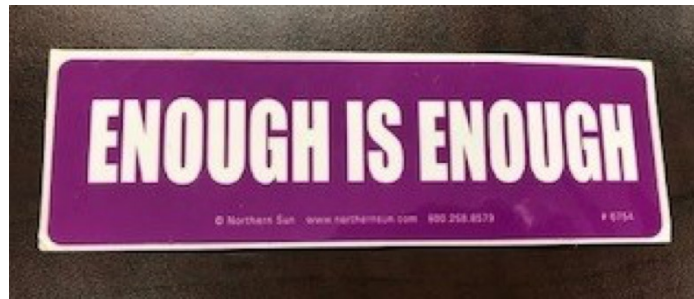


Photo Two

What keeps me going:



Photo Three

You'll see some overlap with Katie's letter, which reminds us all of the importance of intergenerational conversation. Here at the Center, we will continue to make the connections between the experiences of students and those of staff and faculty; to foreground an intersectional approach to understanding the various forms of oppression; and to articulating a vision for a future that truly embodies "liberty and justice for all."

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)

By: Katie DePalma

The National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is an annual conference sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) held in the University of Maryland, College Park, right outside of Washington D.C. The conference is designed to help empower young women leaders to get involved within politics, learn more about gender equity, and network with women leaders and students from across the country. This past spring, the UConn Women's Center sent four UConn students to the conference: Katie DePalma our current Newsletter Editor; Sara DeFazio, a current Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Facilitator; Kavya Katagum, our former WiSTEM Director; and Asadie Walters, one of our former VAWPP Ambassadors.

According to DeFazio regarding NCCWSL, "It was three days of networking, learning, and growth. You get to meet people from all across the country, so I met a lot of other students from Women Centers from areas all over the country. We also met a lot of women involved in activism and women's rights throughout the country. Additionally, there were speakers there, who I had heard of before, but didn't know enough about. Hearing them speak was really eye opening and motivational."

Additionally, the conference featured many influential speakers, most notably was Tarana Burke, a prominent Social Justice Activist and the founder of the Me Too movement. Burke's speech was incredibly moving and introduced an entire new facet of what Me Too meant to me and the connotation it holds for women everywhere. (Continued on p. 5)



Photo Four



Photo Five: from left to right:
Katie DePalma, Asadie Walters,
Sara DeFazio, and Kavya Katagum

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)

Continued from page 4



Photo Six



Photo Seven

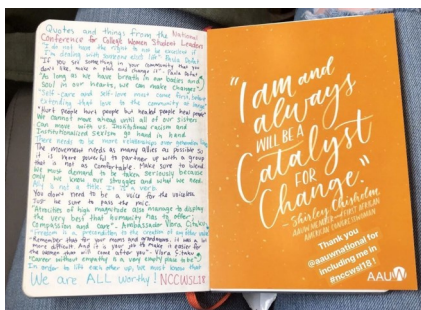


Photo Eight

She described it as a movement created “by women for women” and a movement that was not absorbed by white women, but rather something that was created by a women of color (Tarana Burke) and attributed to her, but strengthened by the voices of millions of different women across the world. She also asserted that she may have founded the Me Too movement, but it will only remain prevalent if it is amplified by other women, who support, believe, and encourage one another.

Furthermore, there were four incredibly accomplished women receiving Women of Distinction awards. The 2018 Women of Distinction were Simone Askew, who is a First Captain at West Point; Carrie Goldberg, Esq., founder of C.A. Goldberg; Aisha Bowe, Co-founder and CEO of STEMBoard; and Carmen Perez, Co-founder of Justice League NYC and founder of Justice League California. These women showed that even in the face of adversity, empowerment and success is possible. This was especially prevalent in the case of Goldberg, who founded her firm in response to sexual blackmail from an ex-boyfriend. Her aim is to protect women who are marginalized and oppressed by the system they are victims of. She turned the marginalization she was facing as a woman into an opportunity for success, which is the precedent all women should strive to follow.

Overall, this conference was an incredible opportunity for all women who want to learn more about gender equity as an entity, as well as garner strategies and skills to become successful women leaders in whatever field they choose to pursue. For more information on NCCWSL 2019 please visit: <https://www.nccwsl.org>.

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Carly Martin: Between Women Facilitator

“My name is Carly Martin, and I am a junior, majoring in English and Secondary Education. I am passionate about helping others and supporting them. I want to share the things I know with others and to learn from them. I want to bring a safe space for the members of Between Women, where they can talk freely and be themselves. Feminism to me, is about equity between all genders and acceptance. I am hoping to learn more about different identities. I want to broaden my understanding of those who are different than me and to become more open minded!”



Emma Atkinson: Women in Stem Mentoring Program (WISTEM) Coordinator

“My name is Emma, and I am a senior, double majoring in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering. After college, I want to become a Neuroengineering and Biological Control Systems Engineer. I am passionate about my major, my sorority, the clubs I am in, my friends, and my family because they keep me happy and healthy. I am also so passionate about playing golf and crafting as it helps me de-stress during hard times. I hope to bring my passion and enthusiasm for supporting women and feminism into the Women’s Center. I am excited to have such an influential position this year, and I want to not only support women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), but also women across the UConn campus. Feminism to me is the idea that women and men should be given equal rights, equal access to opportunities, and fighting to close the gap between genders. I am hoping to learn more about all the other programs that the Women’s Center offers. I have strictly been involved in WiSTEM and briefly with VAWPP during my time here and have not gotten to branch out and explore all the other programs as much as I have wanted to.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Mariana (Mar) Pelaez: VAWPP Facilitator



“My name is Mar, and I am a sophomore majoring in Political Science. In the future, I am not sure what I want to do yet; I just want to help people! I am extremely passionate about helping those that are oppressed and making a difference. I am hoping to bring some joy and fun to the Center because I love the vibes of the Women’s Center community, and I want to add to it. Feminism for me is a way to find my voice. From working at the Center, I am hoping to expand my knowledge and become a better activist.”

Kelly McSpiritt: VAWPP Facilitator

“My name is Kelly, and I am a sophomore, majoring in Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. My career goal is social work and community organizing. I am passionate about advocating against prejudice, discrimination, oppression, and violence against the LGBTQ+ community. I am highly interested in studying youth, LGBTQ+ homelessness in my professional future! I am hoping to bring passion and an open mind. I am here to learn and grow with others interested in changing the climate on campus. To me, feminism is about studying and advocating for social change with an intersectional lens and understanding the connecting identities that shape our experience of gender inequity and other forms of oppression. I am hoping to learn about the impact of prevention programs like VAWPP and the best strategies to spread awareness of sexual violence on and off campus! I believe every program is a work in progress, so I want to leave VAWPP better than I found it!”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Olivia Sykes: VAWPP Facilitator



“My name is Olivia, and I am a junior, majoring in Urban and Community Studies with a minor in Human Rights. I am passionate about a variety of social justice issues, specifically issues surrounding gun violence. Other than that I am also very passionate about immigrant rights. I hope to bring a lot of fun and a lot of energy to the Women’s Center. In general, I hope to also bring new perspectives. I am so grateful for how inclusive the Women’s Center is so I can feel free to bring all these things. I also hope to bring a listening ear to my colleagues. I was raised by some very strong women. Feminism means so much to me because it makes me feel closer to those women in my life. As a Hispanic female, being a feminist makes me feel even more empowered. I can’t imagine my upbringing or life now without feminism! I hope to learn better vocabulary and to find better ways to discuss feminism and the work the Women’s Center does. I say this because I am deeply passionate about the topic, but I don’t always know the best way to communicate that. Other than that, there aren’t many other specific things, I am just excited to learn a whole range of things!”

Yu (Angel) Wei: VAWPP Facilitator

“My name is Yu (Angel), and I am a sophomore, majoring in Actuarial Science and Finance. After graduating from UConn I want to have a few years of work experience and then start my own business. I am passionate about trying everything that attracts me and that I have not tried yet, because I want to get out of my comfort zone. I hope to help more international students learn about the Women’s Center because sometimes international students are a little bit shy and are not always willing to explore potential resources. Feminism to me is seeking equality for women and helping prevent gender-based violence. While working at the Women’s Center, I hope to explore more resources and learn some new specialized, more knowledge. I also hope I can get more involved when having group discussions.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Bruna Basso: VAWPP Facilitator



“My name is Brunna, and I am a sophomore, majoring in Allied Health Sciences. I am on a Pre-Med track with the eventual goal to become a physician. I am passionate about helping other people; that is the main reason why I want to become a physician and why I am taking an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training course, and why I am working at the Women’s Center. The reason behind it is that I believe touching people’s lives in a positive way is powerful and amazing. Feminism for me, is empowered women who inspire other women. It is the call for fundamental rights; it is lifting each other up. For me it means everything as it taught me how to love and embrace myself and others. What I hope to learn more from the Center, besides the knowledge which is the base of our work, is public speaking, which will allow me to become more confident. It is something I have hoped to overcome for a while now, and I believe working with amazing people in this empowering environment is going to enable me to do it.”

Milcah Sajous: VAWPP Facilitator

“My name is Milcah, and I am a senior, majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. My ultimate goal is to become a social worker in a high school. I am passionate about helping people, specifically kids, reach their full potential in life and be the best version of themselves. I hope to bring not only the knowledge that I have gained at other cultural centers to the Center, but the mindset of black women to the things we discuss and learn. To me feminism is being able to express yourself differently and freely as a women and fighting for those who are affected by gender-based violence, the patriarchy, and more. I am hoping to learn more about gender-based violence, while working at the Center, as well as how to be a resource for others and spread awareness of gender-based violence as an entity.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Kara Newell: VAWPP Facilitator

“My name is Kara, and I am a senior, majoring in Research Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience. My ultimate career goal is to be a lawyer, specifically involved with advocacy work. I am passionate about domestic violence awareness because it is an inclusive cause that affects and has affected so many people in my life. I hope to bring my positivity to the Center because I love seeing the #brightside of every situation! Feminism to me, means not man hating, but rather people loving and working so that people of all identities have the same opportunities. I am hoping to learn more about the Women Center’s involvement with other cultural centers because I think it is important that all the cultural centers work together.”



Xingyi Chen: VAWPP Facilitator

“My name is Xingyi Chen, and I am a sophomore and a Finance, Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Psychology major. In the Women’s Center, I really want to advocate for women’s fair treatment and change the bad situations within the world. I am an international student from China, and when I was young I experienced so many inequitable things. So, I want to learn as much as I can so when I can go back to China I can help more people. I am a passionate feminist and a Chinese student who gets involved in many organizations at UConn. So I really want to find more international or American students to cultivate the awareness and importance of gender-based violence and how they can protect themselves from sexual assault, while working at the Center. Feminism means to chase equal circumstances between men and women. I think all women should have access to a good education, great relationships, career successes, and most importantly freedom. I think I have the ability to influence individuals’ awareness of feminism. However, I hope that this year at the Women’s Center I can learn more professional and direct knowledge about the content I will be facilitating.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Yasmine Taha: Graduate Assistant



“My name is Yasmine, and I am a first year UConn graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Master’s program. I am interested in pursuing a career in academic support for historically marginalized students. My passions include dogs, travel, good coffee and social justice! I am excited to spread the message that gender equity work should be everyone’s concern since patriarchy harms people of all genders. Personally, feminism has been an avenue where I have felt empowered to create my own narrative, owning all of my marginalized identities in an empowering way. Intersectional feminism has been made me proud to be my authentic self. This year, I’m looking forward to learning more about advocacy and student activism.”

Tommy Jacobson: Men’s Project Co-Facilitator

“My name is Tommy, and I am a Senior, majoring in Secondary English Education. I am passionate about the intersection of masculinity and education. This is regarding how gender influences behavior in the classroom, how schools can teach young men about more core curriculum, and unequal achievement across genders. I hope to bring a fresh male perspective to the Center that can contribute to the community and help spread the message of the Women’s Center to less receptive demographics. Feminism, for me is about achieving equality for women and recognizing that, despite what some people think, there are institutional and societal structures that benefit men. I want to learn so much from the Women’s Center, but most importantly, I want to learn about effective educational strategies for spreading this type of information, and I am excited to learn things that I am not expecting as well.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Michaela (Mia) Flynn: Student Administrative

“My name is Mia, and I am a sophomore. I am currently undecided, but interested in Economics and Environmental Studies, specifically the intersection between sustainable markets and environmental conservation. I have always been passionate about the environment and animals because I think the natural world is the most awesome thing ever. I am also very passionate about gender equity because I think people should be valued based on who they are, not what they are. I am hoping to gain a lot of insight at the Women's Center and hopefully bring a fresh perspective to operations. To me, feminism is really a human rights movement. Human rights includes all types of people no matter gender, race, class, abilities, sexual orientation, religion, etc.; and feminism is the desire to reconstruct society to be more open and just. While working at the Center, I am most interested, apart from getting to know everyone, in learning how I can be a better feminist and spread awareness and dedication to feminism.”



Sadejah Blake: Student Administrative Assistant



“My name is Sadejah, and I am a senior, majoring in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Communications. In the future, I hope to start my own non-profit organization. I am passionate about being a good person. I believe that if someone is bad at everything else, they can still succeed at being a good person. I hope to bring a different voice and point of view to the Women’s Center. To me, feminism means being unapologetic for being who I am as a woman. This also means working to end a culture that was not designed with my perspectives in mind. I am hoping to learn more about myself and other people’s experiences that help to shape their passion for the Women’s Center.”

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

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Grace Mandy: Programming Committee Co-Chair



“My name is Grace, and I am a sophomore, majoring in Secondary English Education. I am applying to the NEAG School of Education this year with the hope of becoming a high school English teacher. I am extremely passionate about feminism, and more specifically, where sexism takes place in mass media and literature because those areas are so influential. I am hoping as Co-Chair of the Programming Committee, I can bring exciting, eye-opening events to campus that all students will be eager to attend and learn from. For me, feminism is all about breaking down gender roles and throwing away previous ideas about masculinity and femininity. While working at the Center, I am hoping to learn how to better communicate my ideas of feminism, so when I hear people question why I need it, I can provide thoughtful answers filled with history, facts, and examples from the current time period. I want to be able to show and explain to other people how amazing and advantageous feminism truly is.”

Kalliope Sanderson: Programming Committee Co-Chair

“My name is Kalliope, and I am a senior, studying Psychology and Social Work. I am passionate about social justice issues. All people should have the ability to lead happy, fulfilling lives! I am hoping to bring positive energy, my borderline obsessive planning/organizational skills, and my passion for addressing and attempting to combat gender-based issues to the Women’s Center. As Programming Committee Co-Chair, I hope to help plan educational, engaging, and fun Women’s Center programs. To me, feminism means that men and women are equal. Historically in today’s society, women all around the world do not have opportunities and freedoms that men have. A women should be able to live however she wants to, free of other men and other women telling her who to be and how to act due to the fact that she is a women. I also believe feminism should always be intersectional and that dismantling the patriarchy is good for women AND men! I am hoping to expand my knowledge about gender-based issues, while working here.”



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

Continued from page 13

Frankie Anile-Santiago: Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) Co-Facilitator

“My name is Frankie, and I am a sophomore, majoring in History and Pre-Teaching. I am passionate about making a difference in people’s lives; I want them to be changed for the better. I want to make the Women’s Center more welcoming and less intimidating for men that want to help out. Feminism to me is the movement for equity and making sure that men and women are on a fair playing field. I want to be able to learn about myself, as well as women and their thought process, while working at the Center.”



Photo Nine

**“WHEN WOMEN SUPORT
EACH OTHER,
INCREDIBLE THINGS
HAPPEN.”**

-VIOLA DAVIS

**“INDIVIDUALLY,
WE ARE ONE
DROP.**

**TOGETHER, WE
ARE AN OCEAN.”**

**-RYUNOSUKE
SATORO**



Photo Ten

WOMEN'S CENTER FALL STAFF RETREAT

By: Holly LaBrecque

The Women's Center held our annual retreat on September 8th, allowing returning and new staff to come together for the first time. The retreat traditionally includes workshops, bonding activities, and reflection time. Our main focus this year was building a community of practice, or a place where people share the common goal of gender equity by collectively teaching, reflecting, and taking action.

We jumped right into the morning with Mark Flynn, a facilitator from Four Arrows, who led a reflective team bonding experience that involved many handshakes, competitions, and laughs. By competing in various team based challenges, staff learned the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. This parallels to one of our models at the Women's Center; *A place where all the pieces come together.*

Frank Anile-Santiago, Co-Facilitator of Greeks Against Sexual Assault, thought the retreat was eye opening and that the Four Arrows team building had a great impact:

"I felt I was able to learn a lot just from casual conversations. It helped me learn about how my coworkers chose to work and what benefits them. This will allow me to reach my full potential as a staff member at the Women's Center. My favorite experience was when we did our team building activities because I learned more about myself and the ultimate goal of the Women's Center; we all do different things, but it's all for the same end goal. We may not know what everyone does day to day, but we're all working towards the same things." (Continued on p. 16)



Photo Eleven: from left to right, WC staff members:
Tahreem Ali, Steph Goebel, Sara DeFazio, and Mar Peleaz

WOMEN'S CENTER FALL STAFF RETREAT

Continued from page 15

Kalliope Sanderson, Programming Committee Co-Chair, spoke on how the team building activities were integral to building staff relationships:

"I felt each activity helped foster the growth of our community. I especially liked the Four Arrows activities where we had to come up with plans to work together to achieve a common goal. Learning how to plan as a group and take everyone's ideas into consideration was good for our community of practice. It made me realize people felt the same way about certain things."

Jenny Giri, a returning facilitator of the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP), felt similarly:

"I really liked the Four Arrows activity. It strengthened our community bond and that will only make us more effective in impacting the campus community."

No matter what niche of the Women's Center staff we are a part of, it was refreshing to come together as one to talk about our common values. Rhys Hall, a Co-Facilitator of the Men's Project, thought the retreat was very effective:

"They had some of the best ice breakers I've ever done. Getting to work with the same group multiple times built comradery and gave me hope for how to change aspects of my own groups based on feedback I got from others who aren't on the Men's Project."

By engaging as a community, we share experiences and generate opportunities to challenge each other. The retreat was the initial place where the pieces came together; though we all hold different ideas and experiences, we can use these individualized pieces in our community of practice to reach the common goal of gender equity.



Photo Twelve

GREEKS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (GASA)

By: Katie DePalma



**GREEKS AGAINST
SEXUAL ASSAULT**
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) is one of the Women's Center's ongoing groups. GASA is co-sponsored by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life as the program seeks to educate members of fraternities and sororities on the danger of sexual assault. According to the National Institute of Justice, sorority membership is a "risk factor" for sexual assault — 25% of sexual assault victims surveyed were sorority members, but only 14% of non-victims surveyed belonged to a sorority. Furthermore, fraternity men are three times more likely to commit rape than their non-Greek peers. These statistics are staggering; therefore, to deter rape within Greek Life, GASA was created and implemented on many college campuses.

According to GASA Co-Facilitator, Lindsey Vieweg, "GASA is a program where members of fraternities and sororities come together to discuss the community's perpetuation of rape culture. We aim to challenge societal norms through discussions focused on toxic masculinity, bystander intervention, and gender roles. This discussion helps educate participants on how to prevent gender-based violence, not only within the UConn Greek community, but across all of campus. Our main focus is to change the culture associated with being a fraternity man and sorority woman."

Any Greek student affiliated within the Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Intercultural Greek Council can participate in GASA. The organization each student is in must be an affiliated UConn sorority or fraternity. GASA is a worthwhile investment for UConn students because it allows students the ability to teach their peers how to recognize sexual assault, become an ally to women, and intervene if they see sexual assault occurring. "The most important thing students get out of participating in GASA is knowledge. In GASA, we have a rule called "the Vegas Rule." The rule is what we hear in GASA stays in the room in which we heard it, but the lessons we learned we bring into our everyday lives. This way, students experiences are safe, but the message can become a lesson for all," comments GASA Co-Facilitator, Frankie-Anile Santiago regarding the importance of student involvement within GASA.

If you are interested in joining in GASA in the spring or want to learn more about the group as a whole, please email GASA@uconn.edu to receive further information.

PROJECT SEMICOLON

By: Katie DePalma and Kathy Fischer



Photo Thirteen: staff members
Kalliope Sanderson and Grace Mandy

Project Semicolon was an awareness event sponsored by the Women's Center and Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc. as part of Suicide Prevention Week. The aim of the event was to challenge mental health stigma by promoting awareness and resources around this difficult topic. This year's theme was "What's Your Story," encouraging students to open up a conversation and share their stories around mental health issues. During the event, shirts and journals were given out with this theme written boldly across the front, as well as temporary semicolon tattoos, suicide prevention information and lifeline numbers. The Women's Center is a member of the UConn Suicide Prevention Committee, which works to uphold the motto, "Connection is Prevention," by fostering real, in-depth conversations about mental health on campus.

This event is part of a "Movement dedicated to presenting hope and love to those who are struggling with depression, suicide, addiction, and self-injury. Project Semicolon exists to encourage, love, and inspire." (<https://projectsemicolon.com/>). A central part of the event was the tree the Women's Center Programming Committee created (pictured above). The tree was entitled "Reasons to Stay," and individuals were encouraged to write down reasons they want to stay part of the world on small leaves that they could then attach to the tree itself. It was incredibly symbolic of all the little reasons someone chooses to stay alive, and how those small reasons can add up to many big reasons. According to Co-Chair of the Programming Committee, Grace Mandy, "Project Semicolon believes that suicide is preventable, and everyone has a role in preventing suicide. So, as part of Suicide Prevention Week, we wanted to spread a message of hope - choosing to live, despite the struggles. Specifically, the Project's tag line is 'your story is not over.' Building off of this idea, we wanted to encourage people to share a reason to choose to stay alive." (Continued on p. 19)

PROJECT SEMICOLON

Continued from page 18

The event itself was well received, as many students, who visited the table contributed to the tree, used the tattoos, and completed activities that focused on hope. "I think that the event spread a lot of positivity throughout the campus as people were writing down reasons for others to stay alive or reasons why they themselves want to stay alive. Seeing people spread positivity is something we need more of, as suicide not only affects college campuses, but people we love and care about outside of our campus," comments junior, Justin Rivera, member of Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States for all ages. Mental health conditions are often seen as the cause of suicide, but suicide is rarely caused by any single factor. Suicide Prevention Week is meant to show individuals that they are not alone and connect people to resources. No matter what issues they are struggling with personally, there is help and support available. Knowing the warning signs and how you can help can make all the difference. For information and tools, visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's resource site at <http://www.bethe1to.com/>.



Photo Fourteen



Photo Fifteen: members of Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha, Upsilon Fraternity, Inc.

PROJECT ;

"your story is not over"

A semicolon is used when an author could've ended a sentence but chose not to.
You are the author and the sentence is your life.

Photo Sixteen

NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

By: Yasmine Taha

In our fast-paced world, it can be difficult to dedicate time to connecting with new people or pursuing personal and professional development opportunities. In honor of Work and Family Life Month in October, the Department of Human Resources hosted the 10th annual Work/Life Expo on Thursday, October 11th from 9 AM – 2 PM in the Student Union Ballroom. This event was a fun, interactive way to allow UConn employees to chat with colleagues, enjoy time outside of professional responsibilities, and think about ways to prioritize their holistic wellness. This year, the theme of the expo was “Stay Fit and Be Well.” In this spirit, the Women’s Center engaged with faculty and staff to gauge interest for a networking discussion group where faculty and staff can make personal connections and build new skills in the process.

Historically, the Women’s Center has taken an active role in supporting faculty and staff on campus. For example, our staff provide guest lectures on a variety of topics when faculty cannot make it to their classes. The Women’s Center organizes a New Women Faculty Luncheon which takes place every fall semester. The luncheon aims to create a supportive space for new faculty to meet and discuss strategies for supporting women scholars. Our team spearheads the annual UConn Women’s Advance Conference, a professional development opportunity for women staff and faculty at all levels of the University. Based on feedback collected at the Work/Life Expo, we hope to be able to provide new, accessible ways for the academic community to connect outside of their daily routines.

Women face unique challenges trying to achieve work/life balance in their lives. Research shows that women disproportionately shoulder more housework, which can disadvantage them professionally. Furthermore, women faculty typically perform more service work than their male counterparts, which means they may have less time to dedicate to research and teaching. In fact, women in almost *all* fields tend to take on a disproportionate amount of emotional labor, which is basically unpaid work that goes into keeping colleagues happy and comfortable. Of course, all of this extra work can keep women from striking a healthy work/life balance. The Women’s Center hopes to continue to collaborate with staff and faculty to grapple with these tough issues!

Stay Fit & Be Well



Thursday, October 11, 2018
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Student Union Ballroom

Photo Seventeen

HEALTH EDUCATION & LATEX LEAGUE

By: Sadejah Blake

Wellness and Prevention Services serves as a vital guide for our University's community. I know this because before I stepped foot into my first semester at UConn, I had already attended a facilitation run by the Health Education office about Safer Sex. Initially, I was uncomfortable talking about the topic of sex in a room filled with strangers, but our presenter took the anxiety off my shoulders. She was absolutely amazing. Her presentation effortlessly, made us feel like Safer Sex was not something we should be afraid to talk about. I vividly remember the presenter making everyone, "Comfortable with being uncomfortable." This person was Joleen Nevers, Associate Director and Health Education Coordinator.

I will not forget the impact this facilitation had on me. Additionally, as the Women's Center Latex League Representative, I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Joleen Nevers and Health and Wellness specialist, Cassy Setzler, about the work that they are involved in at the University of Connecticut.

We began by talking a bit about the history of the university and safe sex. Joleen informed me about the Health Education Office was established in the 1980s, when the Sexual Revolution was still a prominent movement. In recent years, UConn's community has become active in promoting health education and safer sex. For instance, Flok, which is a reward program app for the students that make many multiple visits to the Health Education office. There are also ways to get involved through programs such as, the UConn Sexperts and the Latex League, which encourage safe sex through protection and education.

I was fortunate enough to chat with Cassy, about the recent development of the Latex League. The Latex League is a group of students that can educate other students about safer sex supplies and information about sexual health. Cassy says, "The current generation is more accepting and willing to promote health and sex positivity." The Latex League seeks to arm UConn students with the tools they need to make safe and healthy decisions about their sex lives. This is through offering free sex supplies, such as condoms and dental dams, and educating UConn students so that they can help others learn about consent and safe sex.

The UConn Women's Center has partnered with the Health Education Office, and the Center now offers free safe sex supplies, including external and internal condoms, dental dams, and lube. Safe sex supplies is available to all UConn students; so stop by the Center for more information!

THE NATIONAL C CLUB

By: Janelle Elliot



Recently, Director of Athletics, David Benedict created a position in the department, specifically to engage former student athletes through networking, mentoring, and employment opportunities.

What is the National C-Club?

*The National C Club is an elite organization comprised solely of former student athletes and managers who have participated in one of UConn's 24 recognized athletic teams.

The National C Club will serve as a platform to:

- * Honor our past athletic achievements
- * Celebrate our current teams and student-athletes
- * Support our FUTURE athletic goals and initiatives

What is the National C Club Mission?

- * Establishment of peer to peer networking opportunities
- * Engage in mentoring opportunities with current student-athletes
- * Opportunity to engage with all things UConn Athletics
- * Participation in various community service and volunteer opportunities
- * Provide and take advantage of internship and employment opportunities

Rich Tradition: Did you know? UConn Athletic Teams have:

- * Won 23 National Championships
- * Earned 230 Conference Championships
- * Produced 21 Players of the Year

Meet our current staff:

- * John Fodor: Four-time Letter-Winner, Football '85 and his wife Sally provided a generous financial gift to start the C Club and will serve as Committee Chair
- * Janelle Elliott: Four-time Letter-Winner, Women's Basketball '96 will serve as the Director of the C Club

Please stay tuned as we are in the process of creating our exclusive National C Club website which will serve as a functional interactive database designed specifically to keep UConn alumni/ae Letter-Winners and Managers informed and connected to all things UConn Athletics. As former UConn athletes, we were all a part of something special. If you have any questions please email janelle.elliott@uconn.edu.

AKL/AXO: WEEK OF GIVING

By: Joseph Schiro

When I joined Alpha Kappa Lambda (AKL) during my first semester at UConn, what stuck out to me most was that AKL raised money for the UConn Women's Center. This really made an impact on me because of my background in the Boy Scouts of America, where I earned the rank of Eagle Scout. This frequently involved helping out different communities and outreach centers around my hometown.

Since my freshman year, AKL has participated in a yearly Carnival Philanthropy event with the sisters of Alpha Chi Omega (AXO). This was an event I loved participating in as I am very passionate about it. After two consecutive years of the event not meeting the fundraising goals we set, we were at a loss as to what we could do with the impending Fall 2018 semester. I decided to use the values I learned in Eagle Scouts, such as respect, resourcefulness, and communication to reach out to Alpha Chi Omega and the Women's Center to get the ball rolling on what I called, "The AKL/AXO Week of Giving."

My thought process was if we can make a different yearly philanthropy event that can generate donations, is easy to participate in, and costs less than the carnival, we would be guaranteed success. Overall, we generated \$1,112 in donations for the Women's Center through Student Union Tabling, a Blaze Pizza Fundraiser, and a Late Night that AKL and AXO hosted at AKL's Ville house. We love working with the Women's Center because they see the passion we have for their organization and are supportive of the innovative ideas we have for fundraising.

We hope the Women's Center will use our fundraising to help further the strong impact they have at UConn. In the end, I was very proud to see my ideas come to life, my brothers' strong support and help throughout the entire process, and the sisters of Alpha Chi Omega and their cooperation with the event. I know we are very excited for the Week of Giving next fall!

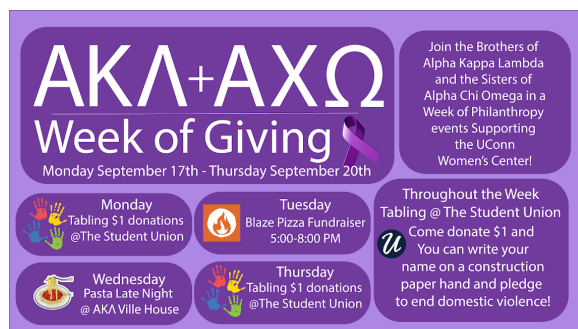


Photo Eighteen

USING INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE: INTERNATIONAL PRONOUNNS DAY

By: Katie DePalma

The first annual International Pronouns Day is Wednesday, October 17th. This day seeks to normalize pronoun usage as a common societal practice, where individuals are encouraged to ask for and share their pronouns. Historically within Western nations, transgender individuals have been marginalized by the gender binaries of male/female. Gender expression should not be limited to gender binaries. Pronoun usage is a simple way to allow transgender individuals the same treatment and human dignity as those who identify with gender binaries. To show our support of gender fluidity and individuals' right to their own gender identity, the UConn Women's Center has dedicated a feature in the October edition of our newsletter to showcase the importance of using inclusive language.

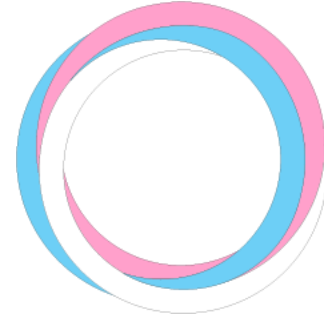


Photo Nineteen

For one to use inclusive language, they must first understand why it is necessary. The language we use within our daily lives often unconsciously makes assumptions about individuals. The use of assumptive language unintentionally reinforces dominant cultural ideologies about one's gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ability/disability, age, as well as other identities and experiences.

In order to effectively implement inclusive language within your own life, there are a few important things to be mindful of that are detailed below:

- ▽ Use words that encompass all genders, not just gender binaries such as male/female
- ▽ Use language that does not assume all people are heterosexual
- ▽ Use "person centered" language when engaging with or discussing groups you are not a member of
 - *Such as "people with disabilities" not "disabled people"
- ▽ Be intentional about representing diversity within stories and academic learning
- ▽ Understand that there is a distinction between gender identity and sexual orientation
 - *Straight" is not the opposite of "LGBT"
 - *Transgender individuals can be any sexual orientation, including straight (Continued on p. 25).

USING INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE: INTERNATIONAL PRONOUNNS DAY

Continued from page 24

Keep in mind that gender is fluid, and for many of us understanding our gender identity is an evolving process. Due to this, it is important to not make assumptions about someone's gender identity. In other words, do not automatically categorize someone as male or as female based off of their outward appearance. Remember that gender is a societal construct and just because gender binaries are perceived as the norm does not mean that they are the only definitions of gender. Gender is not expressed strictly within the binaries, which is why engaging in inclusive language is so important as it emphasizes that there is more than two gender identities.

Throughout United States history many oppressed groups have rebelled against the system at large, therefore demanding human decency and respect in the face of adversity. However, changing ingrained societal ideology about groups that have been historically repressed by society is much easier said than done. This is why we have Pride Parades every year, why Black History month is so important, and why movements like "Me Too" happen in the first place. October 17th marks the first International Pronouns Day, highlighting a truly momentous time for the transgender community.



Photo Twenty

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Photo Two

Courtesy of Kathleen Holgerson

Photo Three

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Photo Four

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Photo Five

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Photo Six

Courtesy of Sara DeFazio

Photo Seven

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Photo Eight

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Photo Nine

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Photo Twelve

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