



VOICES

DECEMBER 2018

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

By: Katie DePalma

This past semester I have had several interesting conversations with peers and other Women's Center student workers about the idea of women supporting other women. What many people do not realize about gender equity based work is that it is not just about eradicating sexism that men exhibit; rather it is about eradicating sexism that all people engage in, as the patriarchy is bolstered by both men and women. However, women can right this wrong by amplifying the voices of other women which will ultimately facilitate large scale change. Kathleen, the Women's Center Director, and I have had many conversations this semester about featuring more voices within *Voices*. This is primarily because *Voices* is a platform for women to speak their mind, to support one another through the written word, and to demonstrate the wide variety of gender equity based programming the Center has to offer. Newsletter engagement ultimately helps foster our community of practice here at the Center, as we are combining efforts to facilitate widespread change in regard to gender equity through this publication. The December edition of *Voices* exemplifies this notion, and I implore you to consider how our Center actively engages in sisterhood within a community of practice while reading through this edition!



Photo One

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Kathleen Holgerson

Katie, our Newsletter Editor, and I were talking about how much we like the flow and expansiveness of this edition of *Voices*. Not that we don't like previous issues mind you – but this one embodies the true vision of this as a space that reflects a variety of voices and perspectives on our programs and services. This really was an all hands on deck effort, as you will see from the many student, staff, and faculty authors who contributed. That is when the Women's Center is at its best – when we are able to harness the depth and breadth of the talent, expertise, and experience of those affiliated with our work.

I wanted to pick up on two themes in this edition. The first, as Yasmine, our Graduate Assistant, noted in her article about the Advisory Board Retreat is how many people are unaware of our institutional and individual advocacy roles. To quote from my job description, "Serves as an advocate for and provides assistance and information to client group on a wide variety of concerns including available services within the University community and outside community." In order to fulfill that expectation, we must navigate relationships that sometimes may seem at odds with each other. Our collegiality is often questioned when we are supporting individuals who are struggling with their experience as part of the campus community. The lived experience of those most impacted by trauma and oppression must inform how we assist leaders and decision makers. However, we must not forget that our end goal is to transform the culture – to dismantle the systems that privilege one set of experiences and enable some to struggle and some to flourish.

We do this in the service of UConn's pursuit of excellence - by removing barriers to access and ensuring all we have invited to be a part of our community are able to succeed. To that end, I would encourage you to read carefully through the testimonials from faculty in my article on our annual New Women Faculty Luncheon and from students in the "Staff Testimonials" section. It is clear that our Center serves as an important space of learning and connection for students, staff, and faculty. We assist with the retention of students, staff, and faculty. We create space for people to engage in critical reflection and constructive conversation. We role model alternate visions for the future. The gifts of time and financial support that we receive during the year are critical to our being able to continue our work. Please consider [a gift](#) to help us work toward a community where our voices are not only heard, but also valued.

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

By: Nicole Simonsen

The Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) hosted the annual Clothesline Project event on Fairfield Way the week of October 8-12. The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to the epidemic of sexual and domestic violence. Each shirt hung on the clothesline was made by a current member of the UConn community, who is a survivor or has been touched by someone who has survived an act of gender-based violence. The aim of this event is to honor survivors and provide individuals with a creative way to share their stories to the public; possibly breaking their silence for the first time. The decorations on the t-shirts ranged from words of support and encouragement to powerful messages from survivors to their perpetrators.

The Clothesline Project was created in 1990 when members of Cape Cod's Women's Defense Agenda learned that during the same time 58,000 soldiers were killed in the Vietnam War, 51,000 U.S. women were killed by the men who claimed to love them. This eye-opening statistic motivated the women to create an event what would provide a platform for survivors of gender-based violence to share their stories and bring awareness to the community about the pervasiveness of this issue. Today, the Clothesline Project is an international campaign that takes place in communities across the world. At UConn, VAWPP has been organizing the Clothesline Project on campus for over a decade now. (Continued on p. 4)



Photo Two

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

Continued from page 3



Photo Three



Photo Four

In addition to the Clothesline, this year the Center continued using an interactive support component; where passersby were encouraged to create mini paper t-shirts. By the end of the week the support board was overflowing. Many individuals contributed messages of support, while others added their own stories and artwork to the board. Phrases like “Believe survivors” or “I believe you” and “It wasn’t your fault,” were repeated many times by individuals who contributed to the support board. This sentiment aims to contradict the victim blaming rhetoric many survivors face when they courageously tell their stories.

The Clothesline Project was particularly well timed this year. Katie DePalma, Women’s Center Newsletter Editor, who helped table for the event explains, “The Clothesline Project is an incredibly impactful event as it symbolizes the widespread effect of domestic violence on women. This year the Clothesline Project coincided with the Kavanaugh hearing, therefore further emphasizing how important it is for women to speak out against domestic violence. Speaking out represents strength as Dr. Christine Blasey Ford bravely demonstrated in her testimony and all survivors of domestic violence demonstrate every day.”

Unfortunately, too many women can relate to the harrowing experience Dr. Christine Blasey Ford endured as well as the cynicism she faced after sharing her story. Hopefully, the Clothesline and support board acted as a reminder to survivors on campus that they are not to blame; they are believed; and they are not alone.

WOMEN IN PUPPETRY

By: John Bell

On Thursday, September 13th, as part of the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry's Fall Forum Series, the UConn Women's Center co-sponsored "Women in Puppetry: A Conversation," with three notable puppeteers operating in quite different areas of the form: Stephanie D'Abruzzo, Clare Dolan, and Dey Hernández Vázquez. The event was moderated by Women's Center Director Kathleen Holgerson at the Ballard Institute theater in Storrs Center. Kathleen began the forum by asking each puppeteer to talk about their work and how they got into puppetry.

Dey Hernández Vázquez, an architect, interdisciplinary artist, and educator, works with two collectives based in Puerto Rico; the activist arts organization AgitArte and the radical workers' theater Papel Machete. Hernández described the various ways her work involves puppetry, from activist parades in Puerto Rico and in New York City for the 2014 People's Climate March, to commedia dell'arte mask performance, toy theater, cantastoria (picture performance), and crankies (scroll performance) about Puerto Rican identity, politics, ecology, and the ongoing effects of Hurricane Maria.

Vermont-based puppeteer Clare Dolan explained her work with giant spectacle and large-scale theater productions as a member of the activist troupe Bread & Puppet Theater. She also discussed her own work in toy theater and cantastoria; her creation of the Banners and Cranks festivals of cantastoria and crankies; her international community spectacle work in Palestine, South Korea, China, and other locales; her creation of the acclaimed Museum of Everyday Life in northern Vermont; and her role as a performer in the queer-theater Circus Amok troupe in New York City. (Continued on p. 6)



Photo Five

WOMEN IN PUPPETRY

Continued from page 5



Photo Six



Photo Seven

Finally, Stephanie D'Abruzzo, famed for her work in *Sesame Street* and the hit Broadway musical *Avenue Q*, articulated an idea all three women shared: that she is "a puppeteer, plain and simple, who happens to be a woman." D'Abruzzo studied theater at Northwestern University, and began working with the Muppets soon after she graduated in 1993. In addition to being nominated for Tony and Drama Desk awards for her work in the original cast of *Avenue Q*, D'Abruzzo also created the memorable performance of Kimmie Schmidt's backpack on the *Unbreakable Kimmie Schmidt* series. "I tend to think of my role in puppetry," D'Abruzzo said, "not as a 'woman working in a primarily male field-although the boys club frustrates me-but rather simply as an interpreter of characters."

In the conversation that followed, Kathleen moderated the discussion to address questions about the participants' experiences and status as women in puppetry, how questions of identity and representation affect both performers and audience, and how activism and teaching connect to the puppeteers' work.

Near the end of the event, Clare Dolan articulated a sentiment that all the panelists seemed to agree with when she stated, "Sometimes I tend to think it is a little funny to try to talk about an artist's work in terms of their being 'a female artist', because when you have a panel of male artists; you never discuss their work in terms of them being male artists; you just talk about their work: they are artists and their maleness is a given. So I think that's important to address too-the way the whole premise of discussing someone's work in terms of a being 'female artist' betrays the inescapable sexism that saturates our thinking about art-positing femaleness as being an exceptional or notable trait."

FAT TALK FREE WEEK

By: Kathy Fischer and Grace Mandy



Photo Eight



Photo Nine

This school year the Women's Center has been hard at work creating programs for Fat Talk Free Week and increasing the extent in which we talk about healthy body image year round. Accepting the body you have is a struggle that so many young women in college face, as body image issues stem from girlhood and extend into womanhood. This year, we hope that by increasing the amount of programs we have surrounding body positivity and educating young women about the harmful effects of negative body image, we can create a campus with more healthy, happy, confident young women.

We kicked off this year's initiatives with Fat Talk Free Week, which aims to eliminate "fat talk" on campus, and replace it with positive, supportive language to describe and think about our bodies. Women's Center staff engaged their peers by tabling in the Student Union where students were encouraged to write on a little sticky note something they love about themselves. The things they wrote were extremely uplifting. The notes said sentiments like "my thick thighs," and "my smile," and "my frizzy hair."

They displayed these post-it notes on a mirror for those in the Student Union to walk by and read; hopefully giving others confidence in their own bodies as well. We also handed out mirror stickers with the message "Warning: Reflections In This Mirror May Be Distorted By Socially Constructed Ideas Of Beauty." We were excited to see so many people participate and share what they love most about themselves.

(Continued on p. 8)

FAT TALK FREE WEEK

Continued from page 7

Later in the week, the Women's Center hosted a screening of the documentary *Embrace*. This movie follows the journey of mom and body image activist, Taryn Brumfitt, through her process of body acceptance. It also looked at body acceptance on a larger-scale, bringing in stories of diverse women from around the world who have struggled to learn to love their bodies. After sharing these stories, the documentary turns to solutions. Taryn works to educate people on why positive body image is such a struggle among women and what can be done to help. She created this documentary to shine light on the issue and show women that they are not alone, which is exactly what our discussion with attendees turned to after watching the documentary. During the post-film discussion, we asked others to discuss their experiences with body acceptance, and how they, in their own life, have worked to combat the idea of what the "ideal woman" should look like. This discussion was a way for UConn students to see the prevalence of these struggles, and to hopefully see that they can learn to love their bodies.



Photo Ten

friends
don't let friends
fat talk

Photo Eleven

WARNING:
REFLECTIONS IN THIS MIRROR MAY
BE DISTORTED BY SOCIALLY
CONSTRUCTED IDEAS OF BEAUTY.

Photo Twelve



A documentary by the Body Image Movement

Photo Thirteen

THE BODY PROJECT

By: Kathy Fischer

As part of the continuing efforts to raise awareness and optimism around body image this year, the Women's Center has partnered with Nutrition and Physical Activity Services at Student Health Services to relaunch the Body Project at UConn. The Body Project is an interactive program that provides a forum for open and inclusive dialogue for women and girls to confront unrealistic beauty ideals and engages in the development of healthy body image. This research-based program has been shown to improve body satisfaction and acceptance among college students and reduce risks for unhealthy eating behaviors, disordered eating and eating disorders. The program works to unpack the reasons why we struggle to accept our bodies and how we can learn self-love; it stresses the difference between the appearance ideal and the healthy ideal.

The first step in getting the program running was a full two day training for eight peer leaders and eight staff partners by National Master Trainer, Dr. Chris Meno from Indiana University, who has been running the program there for more than a decade. The Center will begin offering these workshops in the spring semester.

The Body Project involves two sessions, both two hours long. During these sessions students work to first identify what the "perfect woman" looks like in our society. The list could go on forever, but some of the biggest things that often come up include being skinny but curvy, toned but not too muscular, having long legs, clear skin, a summer tan all year round, etc. From there, discussion goes to the costs of pursuing this appearance ideal. These costs can be both monetary, in terms of buying makeup or even getting plastic surgery, as well as emotional through the implications towards your mental health and overall quality of life. The workshop wraps up with the group identifying ways to combat this appearance ideal and stop negative body talk, both as an individual and as a community. (Continued on p. 10)



Body Project

THE BODY PROJECT

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The Body Project is extremely empowering to young women, allowing them to recognize why they may have trouble accepting their body, and how they can learn to embrace the body they have, rather than trying to change it.

Participants leave with increased body positivity and the research shows that for every 100 women who go through the workshops, nine will be less likely to develop an eating disorder in the future. This project has the real potential to save lives. We are excited for the opportunities this program will give to so many young women at UConn, and the Women's Center is proud to be a part of it.

In addition to workshop offerings, there will be ongoing activities and programs next semester promoting positive body image, media literacy, and self-care. This will include Eating Disorders Awareness Week in February as well as film screenings and outreach around campus. Make sure to check out the calendar on our website for updates!

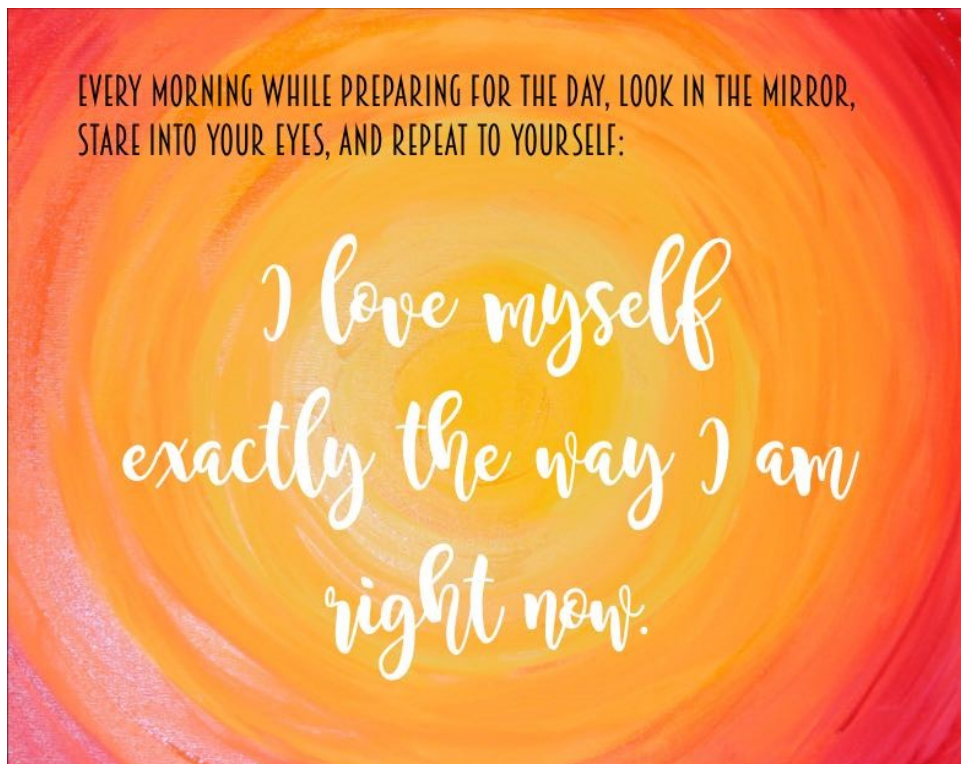


Photo Fifteen

TOUGH TEA TIME

By: Kalliope Sanderson



Photo Sixteen

The UConn Women's Center hosted a new event in October coined as, "Tough Tea Time." The idea was proposed by Mariana Pelaez, a Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Facilitator, during a Women's Center full staff meeting. The event was then organized and carried out by the Programming Committee. "Tough Tea Time" was in celebration of [We Are One Day](#), a day that fights hate through understanding by having difficult conversations. There were numerous events on campus in October in recognition of We Are One Day.

The purpose of the event was to have a tough conversation over tea and coffee (and munchkins from Dunkin Donuts!) My co-chair, Grace Mandy, and I decided to focus the conversation on gender-based issues and feminism.

At the start of the event, we watched Roxane Gay's Ted Talk, called "[Confessions of a Bad Feminist](#)." Her talk details how impossible it is to always be a "perfect feminist," but we should all do the best we can to make choices that facilitate societal change.

Following the video, we led a group discussion via World Cafe style. A World Cafe is when a group rotates the peers they are talking to during a discussion, in order to get different perspectives on a topic. At "Tough Tea Time" we had three different rotations, each of which lasted about 15 minutes. The questions posed covered topics such as: how we define feminism; if we consider ourselves good or bad feminists; the first time we remember realizing that gender bias and hate exist; how we can make our society more equitable; and how social media influences awareness about social justice issues. (Continued on p. 12)

TOUGH TEA TIME

Continued from page 11

The event was a success. According to Programming Committee member Gloria Jean-Simont, “[Tough Tea Time] turned out great. We had a list of questions, and I expected us to just go through the questions, but it expanded into something deeper, and I got new perspectives on these topics.”

Fellow Programming Committee member Marielis Cruz stated, “ While talking in the groups, I feel I connected a lot with the other individuals I spoke to. Additionally, when discussing our personal stories about gender, I felt connected to others, and we bonded!”

Our conversations were so engaging that we ended up continuing the discussion past the time the event was supposed to end. Furthermore, we had many inquiries about if we would have the event regularly. The event definitely exceeded our expectations. We truly had incredible conversations. We are very excited to plan another “Tough Tea Time” next semester!



Photos Seventeen



Photos Eighteen

IN FULL COLOR

By: Mariana Pelaez

In Full Color was an extremely impactful event. It struck me personally because of how much of the focus was on the intersectionality of different identities, and included discussion of the minute details of daily life for women of color that often are not talked about. By focusing on us and the struggles that we face day in and day out, it made this event very unique, and different from everything else I have experienced. The performances even touched upon topics such as sexuality, modern day politics, multilingualism, and others. UConn invites many fantastic programs and impressive speakers, but there is something about an event of a more artistic nature that tugged on my emotions and made it feel even more real.

In Full Color consisted of a series of mosaics and poems that included a variety of topics and themes, specifically highlighting experiences, trials, pains, and joys of being a woman of color. It was done gracefully and beautifully through poetry, acting, and even at times, comedy. Quickly looking at the audience proved that everyone seemed to be just as emotionally invested in the program and I, along with the communal emotions, made it even more beautiful to experience.

One attendee, a friend of mine named Ashley described the event saying, “[It] filled me with empowerment. It inspired me to connect with myself and embrace my diversity and taught me to stay in tune with my values.” I think in a time where women are being pushed to stay quiet and passive by society, *In Full Color* reminded us why our voices matter. By particularly highlighting the voices of women of color, whose voices are often the most silenced by individuals, who have more privilege because of their race and/or gender. (Continued on p. 14)



Photo Nineteen

IN FULL COLOR

Continued from page 13

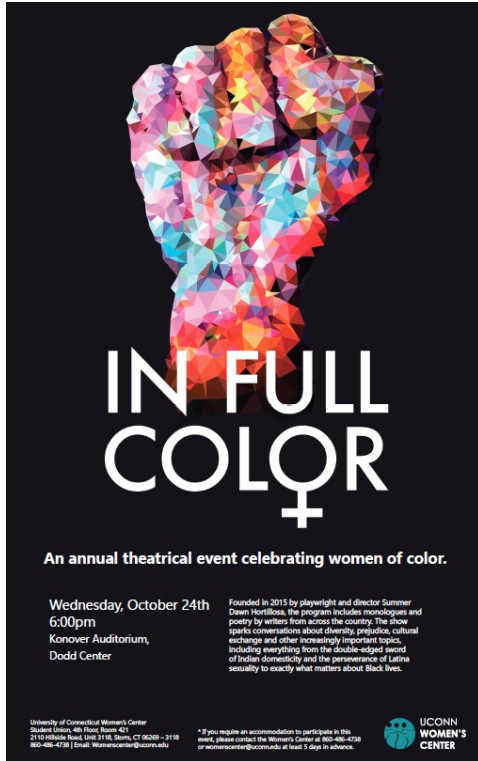


Photo Twenty

I also greatly appreciated how they gave credit to the women who wrote the pieces they performed because often women of color do not get the full representation and acknowledgement that they deserve. As a woman of color, it is easy to feel invisible on a college campus, especially one so big. Being at this event surrounded by other people of color, as well as by allies, I felt incredibly seen and heard.

Overall, *In Full Color* was one of the best events I experienced in my time so far at UConn. I think that social justice and the arts came together perfectly, and the Women's Center illustrated this in the best way possible with putting together this event. As a feminist, a woman of color, and a poet, this event meant a lot to me, and seeing that it is possible for women of color to be successful in poetry, which is often dominated by white men, gave me a lot of hope.



Photo Twenty-one

ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

By: Yasmine Taha

The Women's Center held another successful Women's Advisory Board Retreat on Friday, October 19th. The Advisory Board was created to encourage staff, faculty, and students to collaborate with the Women's Center to achieve the goals we set in our mission statement. At the retreat, we invite people who actively serve on our committees, others who are interested in joining, and those who want to learn more about the Center.

Since we had several new folks in the room, we started with introductions and an overview of the Center's Herstory so everyone could learn about how we got started, what we do, and why our work matters. We then transitioned to my favorite part of the retreat, our consciousness-raising activity. Consciousness-raising is a practice that we use to discuss the everyday effects of oppression in our own lives. I enjoyed chatting with women across campus who share a passion for gender equity. We talked in small groups about how current events have impacted us and how we have been processing those emotions.

Next, Kathleen Holgerson, Women's Center Director, talked more about the main tenets of our mission: advocacy, education, and support. Many faculty and staff seemed familiar with the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) and knew we provide a range of support to students. However, I think new folks were surprised when they learn about the institutional advocacy work that the Women's Center does and how we strive to create an equitable climate for folks that work on our campus.

We ended with a discussion about creating a women's affinity group for faculty/staff so we can continue to be in community as we do this tough work. Over the past few years, our Center has heard from many people that they enjoy getting together at the retreat, the New Faculty Luncheon, or the Women's Advance Conference. However, folks would like a time and place for sustained dialogue where we can build community at a monthly gathering. At the retreat, we received some helpful feedback about how to create a successful affinity group, some obstacles we might face, and what topics folks would like to discuss.

If you are interested in joining the Advisory Board or would like to share your feedback about the women's affinity group, please reach out to Kathleen Holgerson at Kathleen.Holgerson@uconn.edu. For more information about the Advisory Board and our committees, please visit the [Women's Center website](#).

NEW WOMEN FACULTY LUNCHEON

By: Kathleen Holgerson

On Thursday, October 11th the Women's Center hosted our annual New Women Faculty Luncheon. The first luncheon was organized in March of 2012, and that year was also the 40th anniversary year of the Women's Center. We have since moved the luncheon to early October based on the feedback from faculty who serve on the Host Committee. The goals for the program are:

- ϕ To create an opportunity for new faculty to meet other new faculty;
- ϕ To begin to create networks for faculty within and across disciplines/ departments;
- ϕ To provide an overview of the programs and services of the Women's Center; and
- ϕ To identify strategies to support women scholars.

This year we had over 20 new faculty respond. The attendees came from a mix of STEM and Humanities disciplines and included tenure track and adjunct faculty. The host committee members, who represent seasoned scholars from various schools and colleges on campus, engaged in informal conversation with the attendees during the lunch. The formal program focused on information about the Women's Center's programs and services, as well as sharing resources related to finding community, considerations for the PTR process, and professional development – including comments from Suzanne LaFleur, Director of Faculty Enhancement at the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL).

Members of both the staff and host committee commented that this year's luncheon was one of the most successful. According to host committee member, Lucy Gilson, Professor and Department Head in Management, "Another great new faculty women's luncheon. It is so important to get women faculty from across campus together to share their experiences and network. There is always a great deal of sharing, mentoring, and fun – this year was no exception."
(Continued on p. 17)

NEW WOMEN FACULTY LUNCHEON

Continued from page 16

Steve Zinn, Professor and Department Head of Animal Science, added, "The fall 2018 New Women Faculty Luncheon was excellent. The large number of attendees is indicative of the increasing number of women being hired to faculty positions at UConn, and the important role of the Women's Center in creating a welcoming environment at UConn, as well as assisting in the future success of new women faculty."

We also heard from several new faculty who were unable to attend on the 12th, but followed up to get more information about the Center and networking opportunities on campus. A warm welcome to the new faculty who joined us this past year. Also, our sincere appreciation to the host committee for taking time out of their busy schedules to engage with the new faculty.



New Women Faculty Luncheon

Host Committee:

Edna Brown
Associate Professor,
Human Development and Family Studies

Laura Burton
Professor, Sport Management,
Department of Educational Leadership

Lucy Gilson
Professor and Department Head,
Management and Faculty Director,
Geno Auriemma Leadership Conference

Kathleen Holgerson
Director, Women's Center

Andrea Hubbard
Associate Professor,
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Leslie Shor
Associate Professor,
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Jennie Talbot
Community Member,
Women's Center Advisory Board Secretary

Sherry Zane
Assistant Professor in Residence and
Associate Director, Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies Program

Steve Zinn
Professor and Department Head,
Animal Science

Photo Twenty-two

HUMAN RIGHTS REVOLUTION: THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By: Katie DePalma

The 2018 midterm elections demonstrates momentous change for the United States government as more women, people of color, women of color, and queer individuals were elected into office than ever before. Some historic firsts are Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar who will be the first Muslim women in Congress; Jared Polis of Colorado, who will be the first openly gay governor; and Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia, who will be the first Latinx women from Texas elected to Congress. Additionally, *Jahana Hayes* will be the first Black Congress woman from *Connecticut*!



Photo Twenty-three

FEMINIST FILMS WE RECOMMEND

BATTLE OF THE SEXES

By: Katie DePalma



Photo Twenty-four

The 2017 film, *Battle of the Sexes* depicts the fight for gender equity within the sports world, through the true story of pro-tennis player, Billie Jean King (played by Emma Stone). Throughout the film, King is depicted as a pioneering feminist in the world of sports as she fought for equal pay for women athletes and helped form the Women's Tennis Association after being marginalized by the men in charge of the U.S. Tennis Lawn Association.

The crux of the film revolved around the tennis match between Bobby Riggs (played by Steve Carell) and King, coined the "Battle of the Sexes" hence the title of the film.

The public assumed that King would lose the match because as a woman she is presumed to be weaker than any male rival, despite the fact that she was 29 years old and in peak athletic condition, whereas Riggs was 55 years old and a retired tennis player. King only agrees to the match because she understood that a victory for her meant a victory for all women because by winning she would debunk the chauvinistic belief that men are the "superior sex." The notion of men as the "superior sex" is rooted in traditional beliefs regarding gender; King however is not fighting for superiority, rather for equality.

This movie can be categorized as a feminist film because it represents a time in history when women were more marginalized than they are now. For a modern day women watching this film, you are able to get a picture of how prominent implicit and explicit sexism was during this time period. However, King is the symbol for women's equity-in and out of the sports world, as King understood that her winning the match against Riggs would ultimately allow women more access and equity within the sports world. This notion was proven to be accurate as the publicity of "The Battle of the Sexes" set the stage for Title IX, which is legislation that guarantees women the right to fair treatment within the sports world. Overall, this movie allows all individuals to engage in personal introspection regarding feminism in sports, as well as better understand the historical context regarding equity in American sports.

FEMINIST FILMS WE RECOMMEND

HIDDEN FIGURES

Continued from page 19

During the 1960s, segregation was implemented within every aspect of American society. Segregation, specifically within the workforce, is depicted in the 2016 film, *Hidden Figures* through the lives of three talented women of color who work for NASA: Katherine Johnson, played by Taraji P. Henson; Mary Jackson, played by Janelle Monàe; and Dorothy Vaughan, played by Octavia Spencer. These three women are historical representations of the struggle for racial equity within the workplace, and this film is a tangible reflection of that struggle as the efforts of Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy revolutionized the workforce for *all* women of color. The women of color within *Hidden Figures* debunk and consistently challenge the boundaries society has set for them and are constantly reaching for more within their careers.



Photo Twenty-five

Hidden Figures tells the incredible real-life story of three black female mathematicians who fought against segregation, discrimination and sexism to work and excel at NASA during the Space Race – making and changing history in the process” ([Telegraph](#)). This statement emphasizes how Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy acted as pioneers in the fight for racial equality through their competence, intelligence, and determination. Their efforts paid off as they created a world where women of color were allowed to be more than a racialized “other.” Additionally, these women face backlash not only from white men, but also from white women. Historically, white women have been molded by society to see themselves as “better” than people of color; therefore they often engage in the marginalization of people of color within the workplace. However, despite these racial barriers, it is Katherine who successfully gets them to the moon; it is Mary who becomes the first African American woman to attend a white university; and it is Dorothy who understands the computer and actualizes the woman's potential as coders. For me, watching this film gave me a sense of appreciation for the women who have come before us through the fight for gender equity. I also saw the power dynamics between women of color and white women within this film as critical because this dynamic still exists, even if it is less pronounced due to the emphasis on women supporting women that is prevalent within modern day feminism. Overall, this film reminded me that there is still work to be done; even in a more equal world and that as women we must foster solidarity between one another.

STAFF TESTIMONIALS

“My experience at the Women’s Center has allowed me to grow in ways I never felt were possible after being sexually assaulted. I now get the opportunity to help others find ways to grow and continue to educate the student body.”

-Anonymous, Women’s Center Student

“This is a great place to work because we work as a ‘community of practice’ where we all essentially work to use our strengths to achieve gender equity. I think this model takes so much respect and care for one another, and I really value that. It’s the one thing in my life that always makes me feel like I’m in the right place doing what I’m meant to be doing.”

-Steph Goebel, Marketing and Outreach Co-Chair

“It’s a welcoming place for men too! Just because you’re a guy doesn’t mean you can’t be here, won’t make friends here, or will be viewed poorly due to your involvement with the Center. If you care about women this is the place for you!”

-Tommy Jacobson, Men’s Project, Co-Facilitator

“The Women’s Center is my home away from home. Here is where I have found my roots in the turbulent time that is college.”

-Mar Peleaz, VAWPP Facilitator

“My experience at the Women’s Center has been eye-opening. In my third year at UConn I had not taken a liking to UConn, but the Women’s Center has given me a space to call my own.”

-Anonymous, Women’s Center Student



Photo Twenty-six

STAFF TESTIMONIALS

Continued from page 21

“As an international student, I have learned so much about intersectionality and what equity truly means in society. I not only found a place to share my opinions and learn from others, but also found unity among us as a community.”

- *Zeqing (Esther) Shao, VAWPP Facilitator*

“My experience at the Women’s Center has been amazing; I’ve made incredible friends and learned so much about myself and my community. This is my home away from home.”

- *Miranda Garcia, VAWPP Facilitator*

“Through the Women’s Center I have been able to meet some of the most dedicated and inspiring people. Everyone here is passionate about feminism and works as hard as possible to inspire other UConn students to care just as much.”

- *Grace Mandy, Programming Committee Co-Chair*

“My first experience with the UConn Women's Center was when the Violence Against Women Prevention Program came into my FYE Class to discuss gender based violence. As a survivor of sexual assault, I was relieved to have found people on campus that care about something that I went through. The more I looked into the Women's Center, the more I fell in love with it, and now I am lucky enough to work there and see first hand how it uplifts the UConn community as a whole.”

- *Anonymous, Women's Center Student*



STOMP OUT THE PATRIARCHY

Photo Twenty-seven

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