



# VOICES

MARCH 2019

## LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

By: Katie DePalma

I would like to kick off the February edition of *Voices* with the definition of “herstory.” Herstory is a heavily utilized term with the feminist community that recognizes history from a feminist perspective by emphasizing the role of women within history. The main goal of highlighting herstory is to provide visibility to women who have been obscured within mainstream society. This visibility leads to an appreciation for women’s achievements as political leaders, social justice advocates, pioneers within their communities, and any other achievement by any women that furthers the advancement of gender equity. The notion of herstory is salient to all women as it facilitates the empowerment of all women by recognizing that women play an important role in shaping the past, present, and future. (Continued on p. 2)



Photo One

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND THE WRITING INTERN	1-2
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR	3
ELECT HER	4
I'M WITH HER	5-6
SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK	7-8
MICRO-AGGRESSIONS SURVEY	9-10
WOMEN IN HISTORY	11
SENDOFF TO LAUREN	12-14
ETHEL E. FREEMAN	15-16
IMPOSTER SYNDROME	17-18
CLAIRE SMITH	19-20
SIGN UP FOR NCCWSL	21-22
MLK LIVING LEGACY	23-24
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY	25-27
PHOTO CREDITS	28-29

## LETTER FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Continued from page 1

As a community rooted in feminist practice, here at the Center we actively reference the herstory of our own community. This is because remembering our herstory allows us to recognize the achievements of the women who came before us, as their fight for gender equity on campus continues to persist today within the work we focus on at the Center. Throughout this edition of *Voices* you will see a plethora of strong women; these women excel in different fields. Some are currently fostering herstory, while others contributed to the herstory of all women through their past achievements. While reading this edition of *Voices*, I implore you to consider how each of these women represent a critical aspect of herstory that all women can practice.

---

## LETTER FROM THE WRITING INTERN

By: Olivia Grossman

This semester was my first year working at the Women's Center and has been one of the most eye opening and enriching experiences I have had at UConn thus far. Prior to my time at the Women's Center, I had little experience in Women's Studies and possessed only vague knowledge on feminist issues. Working on the newsletter with Katie has been one of the best outlets for me to learn about gender equity studies and feminism. Throughout the semester I have both researched, met, and written about extremely powerful and accomplished women across society and history. The further I delved into the different articles and topics within the newsletter, the more I came to realize how women are not often acknowledged for their achievements. I am both thrilled and proud that I was able to assist in creating the February edition, as I can help to celebrate and honor some incredible and powerful women. Both Katie and I hope to educate our readers on past and present female role models, emphasizing the voices and accomplishments that deserve to be recognized.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Kathleen Holgerson

Welcome to 2019 and our first edition of *Voices* for the year. You will probably be reading this during March, which is Women's Herstory Month. We have been fortunate to be able to share with you the stories of several women who have made significant contributions to the Center, to the University, and to the fields in which they work and study.

Our line-up of speakers and co-sponsorships for the Spring semester include pioneers in the arts, journalism, and social justice organizing. This month our students profile the folk trio *I'm With Her*, the acapella group *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, and baseball writer Claire Smith. In the next edition, you will read more about our Women's Herstory Month Opening Keynote – Franchesca Ramsey, as well as Tarana Burke's visit during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

While I could write a book about the often-unexpected scenarios that we experience at the Center, those random interactions and connections bring the most interesting of surprises. For example, we received a call from the great niece of one of the first women to graduate from UConn. She had found her great aunt's diploma and wanted to donate it back to the University. If you are on campus, please stop by the Center or the Dodd Center to check it out. Finally, the students sound off about their experiences with the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), their reflections on the impact of the Imposter Syndrome, and pay tribute to our former VAWPP Coordinator, Lauren Donais, who has moved to another role on campus in the Title IX Office.

One of the things I most appreciate about working in higher education is the opportunities we have to be exposed to new perspectives and to learn new things. I am also grateful for the students and colleagues who are organizing and participating in these experiences. Whether it is attending a lecture by a prominent speaker or having a debriefing conversation as a quick aside after a meeting – the possibilities are all around us. Happy Women's Herstory Month.

## ELECT HER

By: Kathy Fischer

The UConn *Elect Her* training has been a signature program for the Women's Center since 2010. Focusing on political participation as a venue for change, our overall objective is to help to prepare young women for future political service and other leadership positions in their communities and in their professional lives. More specifically, we strive to support:

- Increasing the number of women, particularly women of color, who serve on Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and other elected positions on and off campus;
- Increasing the number of women in leadership positions on USG; and
- Working to change the climate for women in USG and other elected offices.



Photo Two

This year, we were thrilled to have the USG President, Ama Appiah, and Vice President, Wawa Gatheru, present at the event. This is the first time in USG history that two women of color have been at the helm of the organization. "Wawa is an alumna of *Elect Her* as a first year student. Having her return to speak to another cohort of participants was incredibly rewarding," said Kathy Fischer. Ama and Wawa's presentation addressed challenges and opportunities for women in student government generally, and women of color specifically, as well as what being a student leader looked like and how to get there. They offered sound guidance to participants to enhance their networks and encouragement to see themselves as future leaders.

In 2010, 36% of USG positions overall were held by women and 42% of the executive positions were held by women. This year, 43% USG positions overall were held by women and 62% of the executive positions are now held by women. The Women's Center is proud to continue to provide this training and to support women's participation in elected office, both on and off campus.

## I'M WITH HER

By: Olivia Grossman



Photo Three



Photo Four

The all-female folk trio *I'm With Her* spent this year's Valentine's Day performing at Jorgensen for UConn students, staff, faculty, and other fans. The internationally known band favors a unique mix of folk, bluegrass, and country, which is a genre typically dominated by male artists. Band members Sara Watkins, Aoife O'Donovan, and Sarah Jarosz began playing together in 2014, and have toured across both Europe and the United States in the five years since. Their Valentine's debut was the second show of their 2019 Winter tour that began the night before.

Clifford Teeter, a resident from Stafford Springs who attended the Jorgensen show, posted on the theater's Facebook page giving *I'm With Her* a fantastic review. "I'm a big fan," Teeter said. "The acoustics were perfect, and we had front row seats. I have seen them as solo acts at small venues in the past, and the trio a number of times. They keep progressing with each tour. I took two friends to see them for the first time, and they really enjoyed the show."

"I also had an extra pair of tickets for the front row, dead center and got to see the joy of two young fans that I gave them to who were in poor seats in the rear balcony. Happy Valentine's Day for them. What a blast!"

Teeter was amongst many fans that night who spent a lovely holiday at *I'm With Her's* show, an enjoyable and relaxing way to celebrate Valentine's Day. *I'm With Her* began their winter tour on February 13th in Ridgefield, CT, a show I had the pleasure of personally attending. While each woman had a distinct voice, they sang so perfectly together that the sound seemed to blend and melt into one noise.

(Continued on p. 6)



## I'M WITH HER

Continued from page 5

Furthermore, between Watkins, O'Donovan, and Jarosz there were about eight instruments on stage, some of the which included the violin, the guitar, the bass, the ukulele, the banjo, and the mandolin. They constantly switched out instruments after each song, demonstrating their diverse, vast, and impressive musical abilities.

*I'm With Her* put on a fantastic show, and perhaps my favorite thing about the performance was the down to earth and feel-good vibe they brought to the stage. Their music, as well as their interactions with the audience, were humble and genuine, allowing them to connect with their fans on a more personal level than I often find at concerts.

Watkins, O'Donovan, and Jarosz are three women to be reckoned with. They unapologetically took the folk-bluegrass genre by storm, despite the overwhelming male presence in the industry. *I'm With Her* is already extremely successful, having recorded an album and multiple singles as a band and as solo artists. Their latest release is the single "Call My Name," an earthly and mysterious tune that invokes some Celtic roots in the instrumental. It is a spectacularly unique song, and the trio performed it at the Ridgefield venue, along with much of their 2017 album "See You Around." *I'm With Her* will continue to tour across the United States through May of this year.

Click on the link below to see a calendar of *I'm With Her* tour dates:

<https://www.imwithherband.com/>



Photo Five

## SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

By: Olivia Grossman

I recently had the pleasure of seeing *Sweet Honey in the Rock* perform at Jorgensen in February. The band is composed of five incredible female vocals, one male bass player, and one American Sign Language interpreter. *Sweet Honey in the Rock* is an acapella group that derives its roots from African American culture, music, and history. The band is proud that their audience and fan base comes from a wide and diverse background, and they are well known internationally. Perhaps the most unique and enjoyable addition to the group was Shirley Saxton, the official American Sign Language Interpreter for *Sweet Honey*. I had never seen, nor even heard of, a musical group including sign language as a part of their performance. Shirley Saxton's contribution to the band opens up an entirely new fan base, allowing the deaf and hard of hearing folks a chance to appreciate the performances as well. It was a truly moving and commendable addition to the show.

At first I sat down in the theater unsure of exactly what to expect, yet anticipating a great show and incredible vocals.

Both the show and vocals were delivered flawlessly, but what I was not expecting was how powerful the group's stage presence would be, and how supremely educational and important their lyrics were. From start to finish, each song was performed with full heart and soul, and carried an important message that pleaded for social change. (Continued on p. 8)

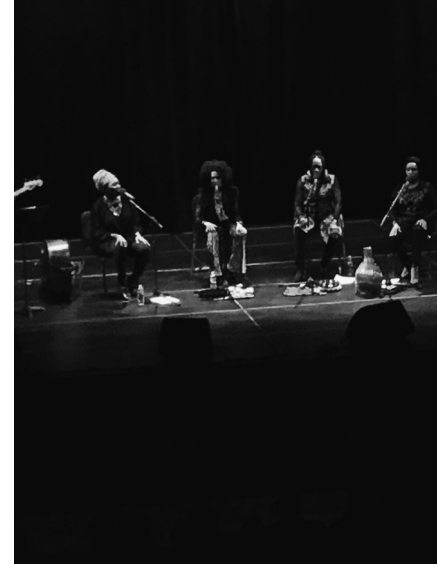


Photo Six



Photo Seven

## SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

Continued from page 7

Right off the bat I really got the impression that these were extremely strong women, as they believed in what they were singing about, and used their music to rally for social justice. Some of their topics included gender equality, racial equality, environmentalism, and even a few relevant political matters.

After the show was over, my boyfriend deemed it a, “combination of impressive vocal work and a powerful message. I never really listened to music like that before and was surprised by how much I really enjoyed it. I would recommend it again.” I had never listened to *Sweet Honey's* style of music either, and it opened my eyes not only to a new form of singing and performing, but also really got me thinking about a lot of the social justice issues they were pressing upon the audience. *Sweet Honey in the Rock* effectively used their diverse musical talent, powerful lyrics, and passion for equality to move the audience in a truly impactful performance.



Photo Eight



## MICROAGGRESSIONS SURVEY: CALL FOR ACTION

By: Olivia Grossman

During the Spring semester of 2019, a team of researchers at UConn are conducting a survey study assessing racial microaggressions against students on campus. The survey was released at the start of the semester, and will remain open until the end of finals week. The principle investigator is Eleanor Shoreman-Ouimet, Ph.D. (Department of Anthropology), who is assisted by a team of UConn faculty, staff, and graduate students within multiple academic departments. The study was based off of, and inspired by, a similar one done at the University of Illinois (U of I) in 2011-2012. Researchers at U of I conducted a study to examine the presence and effect of racial microaggressions on their campus.

Microaggressions are essentially subtler forms of racism. Despite the inclusive and progressive programs some universities offer, many students of color still feel uncomfortable or unwelcome on their campus because of their race. The primary goal of this study is to identify the presence, or lack thereof, of the three types of racial microaggressions within the UConn community: microinsults, microinvalidations, and microassaults. The researchers hope to hear direct and personal stories from students of color. The team aspires to better understand the campus' racial climate, assess the effect of this climate on students of color, and present the data to the University in order to address the harm caused by microaggressions.

Dr. Shoreman-Ouimet discussed the purpose and hopes for her team's study, emphasizing, "We want students to know that their experiences and stories can be a catalyst for change-that no one need suffer in silence nor have their education burdened by prejudice. We want to give students of color a stronger platform from which to articulate instances of racial microaggressions... and we want to do everything we can to prevent these experiences from further plaguing UConn students." The survey has been advertised in the Women's Center Weekly Digest, and members of Shoreman-Ouimet's team are reaching out in person to different clubs and organizations on campus to spread the word. (Continued on p. 10)

## MICROAGGRESSIONS SURVEY: CALL FOR ACTION

Continued from page 9

While the survey is open to students of color, white students are encouraged to advise any of their friends who are eligible to partake in the study.

The primary goal right now is getting as many participants as possible to take the survey and share their voices and experiences. According to Ouimet-Shoreman the long term goal of this study is to, "Analyze the statistical and ethnographic data to identify trends, patterns and recurrent issues that need institutional attention. We intend to bring the data to individual departments, centers, administration, and university offices to demonstrate the need for intervention and provide departments, centers, and university offices with recommendations and methods to eliminate the occurrence and remedy the damage caused by racial microaggressions across UConn campuses. Our goal is to improve the experience of all students at UConn, and in so, foster an environment for enhancing and protecting campus diversity." The survey will provide a platform to give students of color the opportunity to share their stories, and the results will hopefully highlight the problem of microaggressions on this campus.

The survey can be accessed at: [https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2tRL0fkGuDudEJn](https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2tRL0fkGuDudEJn), and the UConn Microaggressions Research team can be contacted at [uconnmrt@gmail.com](mailto:uconnmrt@gmail.com).



Photo Nine

## WOMEN IN HISTORY

By: Olivia Grossman

### Eleanor Coade (1733-1821)

Eleanor Coade is the inventor of Coade Stone, a ceramic material resistant to erosion and weather that is used for many sculptures and carvings. In a time where businesses were largely ruled by men, Coade was a revolutionary in that she began and successfully ran her own private company. She bought a failing stone shop from Daniel Pincot in 1769, and after her discovery of Coade Stone her business took off. Coade's material was used by many of the major sculptors of her time. In an era where the title of "independent businesswoman" was unheard of, Coade defied social norms and rose to success all by herself.



Photo Ten

---

### Elisabeth Welch (1904-2003)

Elisabeth Welch was one of the notable jazz singers of her time, though unfortunately she is often shadowed by the male-dominated musical industry of the 20th century. Welch boasted a rich heritage, with a father who was Native American and African American, and a mother who was Irish and Scottish. The singer performed for over 80 years, singing in London, New York, and Paris. She is remembered with some of the other great names of the Harlem Renaissance, and was a pioneer and role model for black women in the industry. Welch sang on Broadway, acted in other musical theater, did cabaret shows, and recorded many notable songs such as "Stormy Weather."



Photo Eleven

---

### Shajarat al- Duur (early 79th c.)

Shajarat al-Duur translates to "tree of pearls." She was the first woman to sit upon the Egyptian throne 1300 years before Cleopatra. When her husband the Sultan was killed during the 7th crusade, an attack by Louis IX, Shajarat concealed her husband's death and took the throne for herself. The Sultan's son and successor, Turan Shah, eventually returned to reclaim the throne from Shajarat, but was slain by his people once he proved to be an ill-formed leader. It was then that the court decided Shajrat was the best equipped to rule Egypt with the duties as Sultan.



Photo Twelve

## SENDOFF TO LAUREN

By: Katie DePalma



Photo Thirteen



Photo Fourteen

It has been a bittersweet semester here at the Women's Center as our student staff and full time staff say goodbye to our Violence Against Women Programming Coordinator, Lauren Donais as she leaves the Center for a new position as the Title IX Program & Training Specialist in the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). Lauren's work at the Center has been groundbreaking through her admirable dedication to gender equity based work through VAWPP. In addition, Lauren has had an impact on each and every member of the Women's Center staff, which was reflected during the heartfelt speak out we had at our last full staff meeting that Lauren attended. Almost every individual on staff was positively affected by Lauren's work ethic, dedication, and desire to bring about widespread change within the UConn community through VAWPP and the Center holistically. Below is a Q&A with myself and Lauren, which is followed by some personal accounts from our student staff regarding the impact Lauren had on their self growth and UConn experience.

**Katie: "What was your most impactful moment here at the Center?"**

**Lauren:** "As I reflect on the almost six years I served as VAWPP Coordinator, I am in awe of the profound impact VAWPPers have had on UConn's campus culture. This past summer I asked a group of upper-division students what they recalled from their FYE Consent 201 workshop. The first response was 'I remember it was the most real and unfiltered conversation I've ever had in an academic setting.' In this moment, I was reminded of the diligence, poise, and devotion VAWPP Peer Facilitators (past and present) have brought to their work, and proud to bear witness to the fruits of their labor." (Continued on p. 13)



## SENDOFF TO LAUREN

Continued from page 12

**Katie:** What are you going to take from your experience here at the Women's Center to your new position in the OIE Title IX office?

**Lauren:** "I am forever grateful for both the professional and personal growth the Women's Center fostered in me. There are countless practical skills I will take with me, but perhaps most importantly, philosophically, I will continue to return to one of the Center's guiding questions – What would getting it right look like? In my new role, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Women's Center among other campus partners to coordinate prevention and response efforts in pursuit of exactly that." (Continued on p. 14)



Photo Fifteen



Photo Sixteen

## SENDOFF TO LAUREN

Continued from page 13

### Student Testimonials:

#### Yu (Angel) Wei, VAWPP TA

"Lauren provides me with chances to build my skill set, especially communication skills. She also trusts me a lot, even sometimes when I doubt whether I can do a good job. Furthermore, as an individual, Lauren lets me realize that people don't judge you based on your English skills, the more important thing behind is your thoughts. Lauren not only sees me as her employee, but really cares me personally. She often remind us don't forget to have meal and self care as well. She's an amazing supervisor!"

#### Zeqing (Esther) Shao, VAWPP Ambassador

"Lauren has always encouraged us to practice self-care and recognize self-achievements, which has brought me a lot of confidence and personal growth. I really appreciate her for every interaction she has made with students. I believe she can always bring people happiness and positivity wherever she goes."

#### Lindsey Vieweg, Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) Co-facilitator

"Lauren has helped me grow so much as an individual, I now prioritize myself and feel as if I stand on solid ground. My self care and happiness overall has increased largely in part because of Lauren and her ability to help me find myself. In addition, I've always been inspired by her ability to acknowledge she does not have all the answers and that's okay, but at the same time look at ways to create solutions to societal issues from the lens of everyone she meets."



Photo Seventeen

## ETHEL E. FREEMAN

By: Katie DePalma

In the fall of 2018, relatives of the late Ethel E. Freeman were cleaning through their garage and stumbled upon a diploma rolled up underneath an old oil can. This diploma was from 1896, and its discovery proved that Freeman was one of the first female graduates of the Storrs Agricultural College. The Storrs Agricultural College was where the modern UConn campus is today, however the University was not recognized as the University of Connecticut until 1939. Freeman's great niece, Judy Fellows Paskey reached out to the Women's Center after discovering this diploma with the hope to donate it to the University in order to honor Freeman's life and legacy. As a Center we are honored to receive Freeman's diploma as she represents pioneering women that helped pave the way for the women that came to UConn after her; women like us.

We do not have a plethora of information on Freeman, but here is what we do know. She was one of four female graduates in the class of 1896 (see picture on page 16, Freeman is in the second row, furthest to the right). According to Paskey, Freeman was a Storrs native and remained active within the Mansfield/Storrs community throughout her life. Freeman's community involvement included being an organist at the Spring Valley Baptist Church, a librarian at the Mansfield Center library, and a local seamstress. Additionally, she was also involved in community growth as she remained an active member of the Baptist Church and the Historical Society, which led to her helping create a small historical museum in Storrs. (Continued on p. 16)



Photo Eighteen



## ETHEL E. FREEMAN

Continued from page 15

Freeman's life and experiences indicate that she was a trailblazing women within her community, as she did not conform to the traditional belief of women as homemakers and mothers that was almost obligatory in the early 20th century. According to Paskey, "Freeman was an unbelievable person," which is demonstrated through both her commitment to the Storrs community and to her own family. Freeman transcended the boundaries of what it meant to be a woman in the early 20th century. This transcendence is courageous and, ultimately revolutionary, as it is the women like Freeman who helped provide concrete framework for the modern feminist movement.

Freeman's diploma will remain in the Center for the duration of the semester and will then be moved to the Dodd Center for long term preservation. If anyone reading this feature has any information on other UConn women graduates from this time period or on Freeman herself, please feel free to email the Women's Center Director at [kathleen.holgerson@uconn.edu](mailto:kathleen.holgerson@uconn.edu).



Photo Nineteen



## IMPOSTER SYNDROME

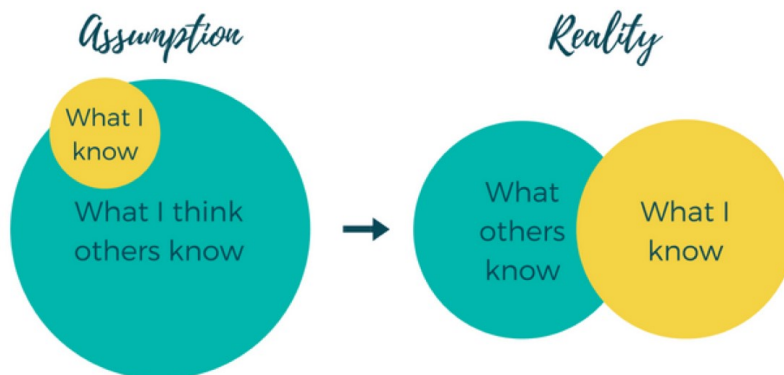
By: Yasmine Taha

Recently, I've been hearing the term "imposter syndrome" used in my classes and on social media. I define imposter syndrome as not feeling good enough or feeling like a fraud at work or in the classroom. Imposter syndrome is very common, but it impacts women at a disproportionate rate. In fact, a recent study found that 40% of millennial aged women feel intimidated in their workplace while only 22% of men feel the same. This is a larger issue for women that work in male-dominated fields, such as the tech industry.

As a graduate student, I can definitely resonate with this feeling. Being the first person in my family to graduate from college, I was really intimidated by the thought of getting a master's degree. Even in the Women's Center, other student staff members and I have addressed our fear of falling short or not knowing as much as other feminists. While interacting with faculty and staff in the Center, I have learned that imposter syndrome affects women of all ages. Women that hold other marginalized identities feel an even greater pressure to prove themselves to others, which can be exhausting.

I have been thinking a lot about framing failure as an important part of my work here and beyond UConn. What if women were able to think about failure as learning opportunities? We often take making mistakes personally because we have been socialized that way. What if, instead of avoiding failure at all costs, we felt comfortable embracing risks? What could we accomplish then that we are too scared to try now? (Continued on p. 18)

### The Imposter Syndrome



 GAILGAZELLEMD  
HELPING PHYSICIANS THRIVE

Photo Twenty

## IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Continued from page 17

Overcoming imposter syndrome isn't easy, but here are a few helpful tips that can reframe our thinking:

1. **Avoid the social media trap!** Your feed is a highlight reel of people's lives, and not everybody feels happy or successful all the time. Consider cutting down on social media time if you often compare yourself to others.
2. **Ask for help when you need it.** It doesn't feel great to put on a façade. If you can't figure something out, ask questions. Let others know that you're willing to answer their questions when you can.
3. **Realize nobody knows what they're doing all the time!** Even so-called "experts" make mistakes all the time. People who have been doing their job for many years make mistakes. Try not to put anybody on a pedestal because, at the end of the day, they're winging it too!
4. **Celebrate your achievements.** Create a list of your strengths and achievements. Don't forget to congratulate yourself on small accomplishments, like getting through a tough day. Keep a folder of "thank you" notes, cards from friends/family or anything else that reminds you that you hold value!
5. **Seek constructive criticism.** It's less scary receiving constructive criticism when you're used to it. Ask your professors, friends or co-workers about things you can work on and frame them as learning experiences. This way, you won't take it personally the next time your professor or supervisor gives you feedback. Remember, everybody receives constructive criticism at some point.

### REASONS WHY A GOOD THING HAPPENED TO YOU:



- UUHHHHHH?
- LUCK
- A MISTAKE
- BECAUSE SOMETHING BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN

## CLAIRE SMITH LECTURE

By: Danielle DeRosa

The UConn Women's Center presents:

### Claire Smith:

A Trailblazer for Women in Sports Media

Claire Smith was at the forefront of a revolution in sports writing; a pioneer who did not knock down clubhouse doors, but righteously persisted until they opened.

Smith, currently an ESPN News Editor, is the first woman Major League Baseball beat writer and first woman to win the prestigious J.G. Taylor Spink Award, presented annually by National Baseball Hall of Fame.

*This event is a part of National Girls and Women in Sports Day.  
Co-sponsored by Beyond the Field, UConn Athletics & the AACC*

**Monday, February 11**  
Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center  
11:00 AM



Photo Twenty-two

Women's History Month offers the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of women, while paying special respect and honor to the women throughout history who have helped pave the way. On February 11th, students, faculty, and staff at the University of Connecticut (UConn) had the chance to welcome the first African American woman beat writer for the Major League Baseball (MLB), Claire Smith. Smith, a longtime journalist and pioneer, joined the UConn community as part of UConn Sport Management's 'Beyond the Field' lecture series, which was in collaboration with the UConn Women's Center, UConn Athletics, and the African American Cultural Center. The event kicked off celebrations to honor National Girls and Women in Sport Day.

Smith paved the way for many female journalists in the sport's industry and is most famously known for her response to being physically removed from the visiting team's clubhouse at Wrigley Field after the first game of the 1984 National League Championship.

Her efforts to reach success within a male-dominated profession did not stop as she continues to work as an ESPN News Editor. Furthermore, in 2017 Smith became the first woman to win the prestigious J.G. Taylor Spink Award, presented annually by National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Through candid conversation and storytelling, Smith shared her career journey, stories of those who supported her, the time she spent with the MLB and her current role at ESPN. When asked to reflect on her career, she shared that at the time she started reporting for the MLB in the early 1980s, she entered a field that was unwelcoming to someone of her background. (Continued on p. 20)

## CLAIRE SMITH LECTURE

Continued from page 19

As the first African-American woman to cover the MLB, she wasn't just the first, she was the only, and that was different. While expanding on the absence of women in sport-related professional roles, Smith shared, "You couldn't fill a baseball infield with the amount of women we had in the industry at the time." However, despite being few in numbers, the women covering sport at this time truly supported and looked out for each other, creating a sisterhood that both inspired and sustained Smith.

Not only was Smith's career impacted by those alongside her and those who came before her, but she had a huge impact on those who preceded her in the field. Ultimately, her presence and determination to do the job she came to do led to policy change and equal access to the locker room for women reporters in the MLB. The day after Smith was physically removed from the locker room, the newly appointed MLB commissioner learned about the incident and declared a new rule effective immediately. Under this new rule, journalists were allowed equal access for all major league locker rooms; a huge step for gaining access and equality.

Despite all of her personal and professional accomplishments, Smith continually acknowledged and credited those before and beside her. As the great Maya Angelou reminds us, "How important is it to recognize our heroes and sheros!" Listening and learning from Claire Smith was a chance to do just that.



Photo Twenty-three



## SIGN UP FOR NCCWSL!

By: Katie DePalma

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is an annual conference spearheaded by The American Association of University Women (AAUW). NCCWSL began in 1983 as representatives from gender equity organizations across the nation saw the need for the leadership cultivation of college aged women. Currently, NCCWSL fosters meaningful experiences for any woman who is serious about creating impact on her respective college campus through community mobilization and is preparing for personal and professional success post graduation.

One of the highlights of the conference is the Women of Distinction Awards, where women in all different fields are recognized for their accomplishments. Past recipients have included Emmy-winning journalist Connie Chung; NASA astronaut, Mae Jemison, Ph.D.; 43rd Treasurer of the United States, Rosie Rios. In addition, the bulk of the conference is centered around different workshops that facilitate networking, women's empowerment as future leaders, and foster skills that are utilized on individuals' college campuses after NCCWSL. The conference closes each year with a keynote address from a woman who has acted as a pioneer within the modern feminist movements. Past speakers include: founder of the Me Too movement, Tarana Burke and Host of *MTV's Decoded*, Francesca Ramsey. Ramsey spoke at [UConn on March 8th](#) in the SU Theatre. Additionally, Burke will be coming to UConn to speak on April 10th, details for this event will be posted on the [Women's Center website](#). (Continued on p. 22)

### NCCWSL by the Numbers



Photo Twenty-four

## SIGN UP FOR NCCWSL!

Continued from page 21

The 2019 NCCWSL conference will feature feminist writer, Roxanne Gay as the keynote speaker. Gay is well known for her 2014 essay collection, *Bad Feminist*, her memoir, *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body* and her collection of short stories, *Difficult Women*. In addition, this year's Women of Distinction are as follows: Jane Marie Chen, Co-Founder of Embrace Innovations, Lauren Simmons, Equity Trader for the New York Stock Exchange, and Ashley Nell Tipton, Designer at Ashley Nell Tipton Design.

This year NCCWSL will be held from May 29th-June 1st at the University of Maryland, College Park. Conference registration opened February 16th and ends on April 30th. Each year the UConn Women's Center selects UConn students to attend the conference. ***The Center covers all costs, including transportation, food, and housing over the course of the four days.*** In order to be selected by the Women's Center to attend you must fill out an application, which can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCCWSL2019>.



Photo Twenty-five



Photo Twenty-six

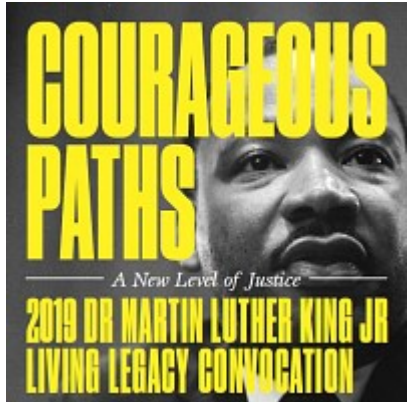


Photo Twenty-seven



Photo Twenty-eight

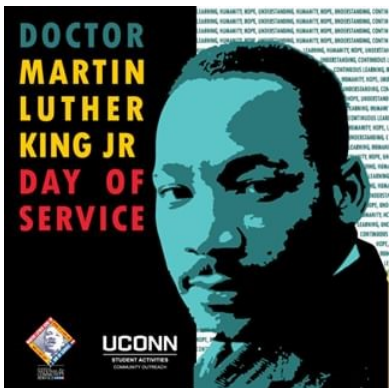


Photo Twenty-nine

## MLK LIVING LEGACY CONVOCATION

By: Katie DePalma

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion sponsored the event, *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living Legacy Convocation*. This event was created to honor Martin Luther King Jr. for his revolutionary contribution to the modern Civil Rights Movement. The theme of the event was “Courageous Paths” to represent how far we have come in the fight for equality, but also how far we still have to go. Below is a Q&A between myself and Dana Wilder, Interim Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and Elsie Gonzalez, Director for Diversity and Inclusion Programming Initiatives. Additionally, Wilder and Gonzalez collaborated on their responses.

**Katie: What was the purpose of this event?**

**Dana and Elsie:** “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, ‘If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream.’ *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living Legacy Convocation* provided the opportunity for the UConn community to acknowledge, that in spite of the passage of time, through actions we are all accountable for making Dr. King’s dream a reality.”

**Katie: How was the theme “Courageous Paths” reflected during the event?**

**Dana and Elsie:** “Chief Justice Robinson’s story is one of a courageous individual who despite the obstacles attributed to his identities, he was determined to persevere and lead the path of courage, integrity and justice.” (Continued on p. 24)

## MLK LIVING LEGACY CONVOCATION

Continued from page 23

**Katie: How did this event impact the UConn community?**

**Dana and Elsie:** “This event inspired the UConn community to move courageously towards inclusion.”

**Katie: What major points did Chief Justice Robinson make during his keynote speech?**

**Dana and Elsie:** “He summarized Dr. King’s steady courage and his greatness in three phrases: he inspired, he persisted and he kept his faith. This courageous path is not a sprint but a marathon, and to this marathon he brought a reverence for the rule of law. Chief Justice Robinson said that if there is anything that will sustain the promise of justice for all, it will be the rule of law. It means the basic agreement we made with each other is that no government, person, or thing is above the law. He highlighted the impact of implicit and explicit bias incidents happening in our country. Dr. King’s *I Have A Dream* sermon is not static in time. The dream has not been deferred; it was left for us to carry out. Dr. King was a person of action and inspired others to do the same. To mean something is to do something. For more information please see [video](#) from the convocation.”

**Katie: What would you say was the most impactful moment of the event?**

**Dana and Elsie:** “Chief Justice Robinson shared personal examples of his experiences. As a child he would openly question things that were unjust. It did not make sense to him to treat people different because of the color of their skin. He could not fathom that there were laws against people that looked like him to staying in public accommodations, riding on trains; eating at lunch counters or marrying the person they loved. This thinking could have deadly consequences. When he was born it was improbable if not impossible for his parents to think that their son would be the 1st African American to become an attorney for the city of Stamford, the 5th African American to sit in Appellate Court, the 4th to be appointed to the Supreme Court and the 1st African American ever Chief Justice.”



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By: Olivia Grossman

March 8th marked this year's International Women's Day (IWD), an event that was eagerly anticipated across the globe. The day celebrates and commends the social, cultural, economic, and political achievements of women. It further stands as a reminder that, as an international society, we are still striving and working towards gender equality. No single group, nation, or company is responsible for hosting or organizing IWD, and it has been celebrated around the world for over a century.

Attending marches, writing petitions, publishing articles, or speaking at events are not the only ways people can celebrate IWD. There are many simpler and easier ways UConn students can celebrate the event right here on campus, whether they are at home, at work, or in class.

### Films & Documentaries

*Sit back and relax while you enjoy and learn about powerful women in cinema. The following list of films and documentaries are a sure way to celebrate IWD and educate yourself.*

#### ***I Feel Pretty***

A hilarious yet touching comedy starring Amy Schumer addresses the issue of body image and socially constructed beauty standards in society. A feel-good movie that creates conversation about an issue that impacts many women in today's culture.

#### ***Nikita***

This film tells the story of Nikita, a teenage criminal who trains to become a talented and fearsome assassin. *Nikita* is a French film you don't want to miss, complete with action, thrill, and a fierce and powerful female lead.

#### ***Much Loved***

Director Nabil Ayouch created this film to spread public awareness about how women in Morocco are often forced to turn to sex work, due to unequal employment opportunities in the country. (Continued on p. 26)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Continued from page 25

### ***A Ballerina's Tale***

A documentary about Misty Copeland, the first African American woman to become a principal dancer in the American Ballet Theater.

### ***Growing Up Coy***

This documentary is about a transgender girl and the journey her parents took to organize a civil rights case in her defense.

### **Books & Literature**

*Cozy up with a good book that will inspire and awake your inner feminist.*

### ***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalid Hosseini**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* follows two young women in Afghanistan from the 1960s-2000s who are both forcibly married to the same abusive older man. The book details how for 40 years the two characters must learn how to adapt to their patriarchal society, and cope with their situation.

### ***Not That Bad* edited by Roxanne Gay**

An ensemble of true essays and stories that touch upon the issue of sexual assault and rape culture. Edited and compiled by Roxanne Gay, each voice and individual experience will help inform, enlighten, and challenge the way readers think about these topics.

### ***Ain't I A Woman* by bell hooks**

Hook's work argues the need for a more intersectional approach to feminism and social issues, calling for intersectionality theory to be applied to law, media, education, and society as a whole.

### ***We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

A compelling and award winning essay by the author of *Americanah* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Adichie's work suggests a unique definition of feminism and explains what it is to be a woman today. (Continued on p. 27)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Continued from page 26

### ***Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi**

A violent narrative about one woman who is sentenced to be executed in a Cairo prison. Based on a true story, it details the tragic consequences of being an impoverished woman in a patriarchal Egyptian society.

### **Music**

*Celebrate IWD on the go with these popular feminist playlists.*

“Women Empowerment” by CANBOLATHELIN on Spotify

“Badass Women” by SPOTIFY

“Feminist Playlist” by Sierra Morris on Apple Music

### **UConn Organizations**

*Get involved in feminism and diversity through these music-based UConn clubs.*

**Chordials**, the first female acapella group to be established at UConn(1998), music group stemming from the Asian American Cultural Center.

**Alima International Dance Association**, who strives to teach students about cultural diversity through music and dance.

**Gan Dong**, a group of international students interested in band and music composition.

**Rubyfruit**, an all-female acapella group.

**Sanskriti**, a club that performs and practices Carnatic music, the oldest form of music in India.

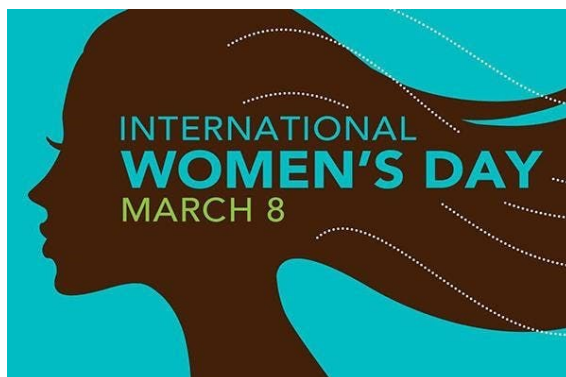


Photo Thirty

## PHOTO CREDITS

**Photo One:**

Courtesy of <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/121034308706104920>

**Photo Two**

Courtesy of Kathy Fischer

**Photo Three**

Courtesy of [imwithherband.com](http://imwithherband.com)

**Photo Four**

Courtesy of Olivia Grossman

**Photo Five**

Courtesy of <https://www.caramoor.org/events/im-with-her-benefit-concert/>

**Photo Six**

Courtesy of Olivia Grossman

**Photo Seven**

Courtesy of Olivia Grossman

**Photo Eight**

Courtesy of [sweethoneyintherock.org](http://sweethoneyintherock.org)

**Photo Nine**

Courtesy of <https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/20/opinions/where-are-you-really-from-vega-opinion/index.html>

**Photo Ten**

Courtesy of <https://upclosed.com/people/eleanor-robson-belmont/>

**Photo Eleven**

Courtesy of <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/elisabeth-welch/>

**Photo Twelve**

Courtesy of <http://www.civicegypt.org/?p=53968>

**Photos Thirteen through Seventeen**

Courtesy of Sara DeFazio



## PHOTO CREDITS

Continued from page 28

### Photo Eighteen

Courtesy of Katie DePalma and the UConn Women's Center

### Photo Nineteen

Courtesy of the UConn Dodd Center Online Archives

### Photo Twenty

Courtesy of [www.gailgazelle.com/the-imposter-syndrome-part-i-once-thought-rare-now-known-to-be-common-among-physicians/](http://www.gailgazelle.com/the-imposter-syndrome-part-i-once-thought-rare-now-known-to-be-common-among-physicians/)

### Photo Twenty-one

Courtesy of [www.multicultural.dso.iastate.edu/posts/2017/10/dealing-impostor-syndrome-andy](http://www.multicultural.dso.iastate.edu/posts/2017/10/dealing-impostor-syndrome-andy)

### Photo Twenty-two

Courtesy of UConn Women's Center

### Photo Twenty-three

Courtesy of *The Daily Campus*

### Photos Twenty-four through Twenty-six

Courtesy of [nccwsl.org](http://nccwsl.org)

### Photo Twenty-seven

Courtesy of [www.events.uconn.edu/event/66961/2019-01-24](http://www.events.uconn.edu/event/66961/2019-01-24)

### Photo Twenty-eight

Courtesy of *The Daily Campus*

### Photo Twenty-nine

Courtesy of [www.topics.com/uconnstudentactivities](http://www.topics.com/uconnstudentactivities)

### Photo Thirty

Courtesy of [www.paxchristi.net/international-womens-day](http://www.paxchristi.net/international-womens-day)