The mission of the Harvard College Women's Center is to promote gender equity by raising awareness of women's and gender issues, developing women's leadership, and celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire. In alignment with these goals, we centralize resources and offer student-focused programming to strengthen individuals and student organizations. The Women's Center is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all genders that encourages dialogue and diversity.

In 2010-11, the Women's Center staff and students worked together throughout the year to examine and revise our mission statement to more accurately reflect our work and values. The new mission statement appears above.
Greetings from the HCWC!

We are so happy (and a little amazed!) to report that we recently completed our fifth year of operation here in our happy home in Canaday B Entry. As part of the reflection process on our first half-decade and in anticipation of our next, we decided as a team to undertake a discussion of our mission statement. The process of discernment we entered into with our fantastic student interns was invigorating and meaningful. Our new mission statement is only slightly edited from our first, but includes an explicit commitment to promoting gender equity at Harvard and in the world beyond. Of course, through our educational programs, leadership development initiatives, and mentoring, we’ve always been ideologically committed to ensuring fair treatment and opportunity for all genders at Harvard. We now are simply saying that in a more direct way.

What will that mean for the work we do here? It means that we will ask, and expect, more of ourselves in the realm of asking ‘hard questions’ about the experiences of women students at Harvard, and thinking about ways to ensure greater safety and inclusion for transgender students as well. We will continue to cultivate men’s involvement in gender equity and model together how students can support each other in creating a better world. It will mean that we are, first and foremost, invested in supporting students who are working to make Harvard a more gender-inclusive place, every day.

In some ways for us, it’s a new beginning, and in others, the closing of a chapter. I’ve had the deep pleasure of fostering the evolution of this mission, in partnership with these wonderful students and my colleagues Gina Helfrich and Bridget Duffy, for the last five years. It is now time for me to move on to a new challenge -- teaching full time in the Graduate Institute for Education at Merrimack College. I look forward to the pleasures and rigors of an academic life, and am confident that the HCWC is poised for wonderful new things as I hand the leadership reins over to Gina and Bridget.

It seems fitting, as the new chapter begins, to thank you for your support of our work, now and every day of the last five years. If you haven’t been to see us in a while, we hope you will stop in soon. We welcome involvement from all students, staff, faculty and alumni of Radcliffe and Harvard, and hope you will become part of our work to promote gender equity, centralize resources for students, and encourage diversity. And on a personal note—thank you! It has been a delight, and I will cherish the memories of knowing and standing together with each of you as we created a women’s center at Harvard.

Sincerely,

Susan Marine, Ph.D.
Director, 2006-11

As our fifth anniversary year draws to a close, I am struck by how successfully the Women’s Center has established itself as a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community here at Harvard. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff members—and especially of our founding Director, Susan Marine—the Women’s Center enjoys a strong presence on campus, a positive regard from students, and a warm relationship with alumnae. With this foundation in place, I look forward to undertaking new initiatives in support of our newly-revised mission statement, finding creative and effective ways to enrich and support the lives of Harvard College students. After a year and a half as Assistant Director, I am deeply honored and very excited to take on the Directorship next year. I will be counting on the members of our community to help support and guide the Center through this transition. Change always brings opportunity: If you have ideas about how the Center can better serve our community and support student learning and engagement, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. Please don’t hesitate to contact us at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu or by phone at (617) 495-4292.

Sincerely,

Gina Helfrich, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, 2010-11
Incoming Director, 2011
Members of the HCWC staff welcome members of the class of 2014 to the Women’s Center’s Fall Open House.

Evelyn Hammonds, Dean of Harvard College, stops by to visit with HCWC interns during the annual fall Student Activities Fair at the Radcliffe Quad.

HCWC 2010-2011 Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major HCWC events</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total attendees at 2010-2011 HCWC events</td>
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<td>Cosponsored events</td>
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<td>Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund grants given</td>
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<td>Total ART/WCCF grant funding given to student groups</td>
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<td>Women’s Leadership Award nominations</td>
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<td>Total number of student group meetings in the HCWC</td>
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<td>Student group that held the most meetings</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>HCWC staff members</td>
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</table>

Co-sponsored by the Harvard College Women’s Center and the Freshman Dean’s Office, the Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture offers an early opportunity for new students to be exposed to female faculty in the College and to learn about their research and interests. This year’s lecture, entitled “Outbreak: Evolution, Genomics, and Infectious Disease,” was given by Pardis Sabeti, Assistant Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. Professor Sabeti was named one of the 8 Geniuses That Will Change Your Life by CNN.com, one of the 100 Top Living Geniuses by the UK Daily Telegraph, a Science Spectrum Magazine Trailblazer, a Seed Magazine Revolutionary Mind, and one of Genome Technology’s Tomorrow’s Principal Investigators. She is also the lead singer and bassist of the alternative rock band Thousand Days.

Professor Pardis Sabeti gives a presentation on her research to members of the class of 2014.

Fall 2010 Events

Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture - August 30th

Women’s Community Fair - September 16th

Early in September, students splashed through evening rain showers to attend the fifth annual Women’s Community Fair. Each year, the fair brings together representatives from a variety of women’s and gender-focused student groups to recruit new students to their organizations, to forge relationships with other groups, and to encourage collaboration on future events. This year, the fair moved to Quincy House’s dining hall, a large space more wheelchair accessible than the previous location. Students set up tables with informational flyers and treats to encourage attendees to step up and learn more about their groups. The representatives enjoyed mingling with each other while snacking on cookies and awaiting each of eight door prize drawings. Lucky winners left the fair with gift certificates to Harvard Square favorites like Berryline and Boloco. All attendees, however, left with a better sense of community and an excitement about the possibilities Harvard’s groups offer students interested in women’s or gender issues.
How to Run for the Undergraduate Council  
September 20th

The “How to Run for the UC” Workshop was an event focused on teaching first year students, especially first year women, the ins and outs of running a campaign for the Harvard Undergraduate Council. The President, Vice President, Student Relations Chair, and two other UC representatives spoke about their own experiences running for office and holding the offices that they do. They also gave advice like, “knock on all the doors in your yard—twice” and “don’t campaign on an issue like keeping the dining halls open 24/7 because that’s unrealistic.” The Student Relations Chair gave a quick rundown of the gender demographics of the UC and pointed out that the underrepresentation of women on the UC is not because women do not win elections but because they don’t run for office. The UC representatives encouraged all the women in the room to follow through with their campaigns and asked the whole room to encourage female friends and dorm-mates to consider campaigning. The presentation included a helpful handout with the rules about how to run for election, and there was a question and answer session where first years were able to air their concerns about campaigning and what it is like to work on the UC, with answers from experienced students who have already gone through the process once.

Lady Gaga and Beyoncé: New Faces of Feminism?  
September 27th

The Harvard College Women’s Center invited 2010-11 Radcliffe Fellow Daphne Brooks, Associate Professor of English and African American Studies at Princeton University, to lead a discussion on women in pop culture and feminism. A crowd of students filled the lounge to view a multimedia presentation featuring pictures, music, videos, and press excerpts produced by and about pop culture icons Lady Gaga and Beyoncé. Professor Brooks asked probing questions about empowerment, objectification, visibility, race, and materialism. The event focused on viewing Lady Gaga and Beyoncé through a feminist lens and challenged participants to ask themselves to what extent we can view these women as feminist icons and how we should define feminism in the first place. Looking at song lyrics and provocative music videos provided an occasion for students to discuss what it means to be feminist in a changing world and how ideas about gender are reflected back on us through the media.

Dorm Made Simple - September 20th

Dorm Made Simple was a craft night with the goal of helping students to personalize their rooms. Attendees enjoyed picture frame decorating, flower making, and other crafts geared towards beautifying their living spaces. We also provided tips on eco-friendly living. A highlight of the evening was a talk on cleanliness by John Lyon ’12, a defensive end on Crimson’s football team. Cookies, crafts and camaraderie were the course of the evening.

Women’s Strength Training Orientation - October 6th

To promote healthy living and empower students to make healthful choices about their lifestyles, the Harvard College Women’s Center sponsored a Women’s Strength Training Orientation at Hemenway Gym on the Harvard Law School campus. With the help of Mike Doyle, a member of the Harvard fitness staff, our participants learned how to use the weight machines with proper technique and subsequently gained confidence in becoming stronger without fear of injury. Mike took our participants through a practice routine and explained the target muscles for each machine in detail, as well as emphasizing proper form. Additionally, Mike answered questions regarding the pre- and post-steps of a workout that include stretching and recovery time. Our participants ranged from being gym regulars to first timers, but everyone walked away with a basic knowledge of what going to the gym has to offer!
Lunch with Susan Burton - October 12th

The Women’s Center was honored to host a luncheon Q&A with Susan Burton, recipient of the 2010 Harvard Kennedy School Gleitman Citizen Activist Award. Ms. Burton received the award in honor of her founding of and work with A New Way of Life Reentry Project in South Central Los Angeles, which helps women and girls break the cycle of entrapment in the criminal justice system and lead healthy and satisfying lives. Ms. Burton shared her personal story of the challenges of abuse, addiction, and imprisonment—challenges she overcame on her path to becoming an advocate for women ex-prisoners. She also spoke about the services that A New Way of Life provides, shared stories of some of the women she has helped, and explained her plans to help other activists launch similar programs in communities around the country. The twenty-five attendees at the lunch walked away feeling inspired by Ms. Burton and energized to get involved in their own communities.

Pizza & Discussion with Eve Sicular - October 21st

A Harvard-Radcliffe alum Eve Sicular ’83 led a discussion and question-and-answer session over pizza at the Women’s Center. Conversation focused on Sicular’s scholarly work on lesbian & gay subtext in Yiddish cinema from the 20s to the outbreak of World War II, including follow-up discussion from a lecture she gave the previous evening, entitled “The Celluloid Closet of Yiddish Film: Queer Subtext in a Cinema of Diaspora.” Sicular is a filmmaker/historian and has lectured throughout North America and Europe on Yiddish and Soviet cinema. A former curator of Film & Photography Archives at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, she has also worked for the Department of Film at New York’s Museum of Modern Art on the series “Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds.” She received a magna cum laude from Harvard-Radcliffe College for her thesis on the compilation film work of early Soviet documentary pioneer Esther Shub. The talk was co-sponsored with BAGELS: Harvard’s Queer Jewish Organization and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Seminar at the Humanities Center at Harvard.

Art Show: Framing History: Student Life at Harvard and Radcliffe during 1960s-1990s

The “Framing History: Student Life at Harvard and Radcliffe during 1960s-1990s” exhibit was created as a tribute to student life at Harvard and Radcliffe during the second half of the twentieth century. The thirty-four photographs featured in the exhibit were chosen because of the way that they present different facets of student life at the college, and they are meant to highlight the diverse ways that students have participated in campus activities throughout the years. The photos were selected from the Harvard University Library Visual Information Access. Also featured in the exhibit are foam-core pieces of a timeline that represents the progress made around women’s issues on campus, highlighting both policy changes and individual students’ successes and triumphs. These pieces supplement the black and white photographs and their captions to give more detailed accounts of specific landmarks in the institutions’ histories.

The photographs were organized into six different clusters according to the following themes: student activism, students at play, student life in and around the dorm, students at work, student athletes, and student performing artists. These categories exemplify the rich legacy of student activities and experience that continue to exist today. This display is meant to celebrate Harvard and Radcliffe alumnae for their undergraduate experiences and contributions. It is also meant to inspire current students to reflect on the history of women’s social activities and extracurricular experiences in relation to their own.
Dinner and Discussion with Jestina Mukoko
October 24th

The Women’s Center, Harvard African Students Association, and the Harvard Foundation hosted a dinner and a discussion with Jestina Mukoko in Lowell Junior Common Room. Jestina Mukoko is one of the 2010 winners of the International Woman of Courage Award for her work in human rights activism in Zimbabwe. Mukoko talked about her human rights problems in Zimbabwe, the work of her NGO, The Peace Project, and the country’s political climate. She briefly talked about her visions and hopes for Zimbabwe in the future (after the 2011 presidential elections). This was followed by a dinner of authentic home-cooked African dishes accompanied by a Q&A session. Over 40 people attended the event from Harvard College, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Tufts University and a few other schools in the greater Cambridge-Boston area.

This event was made possible by generous support from the Woodward Charitable Foundation, in honor of William Woodward III and his vision.

Film Screening of “Orgasm, Inc.”
October 27th & 28th

The Harvard College Women’s Center, along with the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, the Radcliffe Union of Students, and Girlspot, presented a screening of the film, Orgasm, Inc.: The Strange Science of Female Pleasure. The day following the screening, there was a luncheon with the creator of the film, Liz Canner. Orgasm, Inc. examines the pharmaceutical industry’s quest to create a drug to treat “female sexual dysfunction.” It also discusses whether such a “disease” as “female sexual dysfunction” even exists. The film elicited a lively discussion from the audience during the Q&A with Liz Canner. The next day, people gathered over lunch in the Women’s Center to talk with Liz about the movie and the issues it raises about female sexuality and American conceptions of what constitutes a “normal” body and “normal” sex.

New England Women’s Centers Conference
November 5th & 6th

This fall the Harvard College Women’s Center was proud to host the first New England Women’s Centers Conference in recent memory. The conference brought together staff, students, and volunteers from New England area women’s centers and gave participants the opportunity for networking, cross-institutional collaboration, peer support, and professional development. There were 60 participants representing 16 colleges and universities, with approximately 35% full-time staff, 40% student staff, and 25% volunteers. Attendees enjoyed lively conversation about intergenerational feminism, the role of women’s centers and women’s studies on college campuses, the benefits and challenges of gender-inclusive women’s center work, and supporting activist work in our communities. The conference keynote was given by three student interns, Bonnie Bryant ‘11 (Lesley University), Bradley Craig ’13, and Ali Underwood ’11.

Students and staff from New England area women’s centers share ideas about programming, resources, and community-building.

Fair Game? Media Portrayals of Women in Politics
November 9th

Our fall discussion of women in politics was an opportunity to highlight the way that media misrepresentations of women in the political sphere might affect their chances of being elected to office. The event took place a week after the 2010 Midterm Elections, which saw nearly 300 women put in their bid for elected office at the local, state, and national levels. We discussed some of the discrepancies in topics that the media have historically focused on when discussing women political candidates as opposed to their male counterparts. For example, when covering women in politics, the focal point might be their family relationships or how attractive they are. We recognized that while these points may emerge in discussion of male political candidates, they are generally not the main focus, as they tend to be with women. During this event, we were fortunate to be joined by Susan Milligan, a 2010 Institute of Politics Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. Milligan is a veteran political journalist and writer who moderated the discussion. She also shared her experiences covering and interacting with well-known political figures. A key outcome of this event was a general recognition of the continued need to raise awareness about inequality in women’s representation in the political sphere, an objective that the Women’s Media Center, a national initiative dedicated to fighting media sexism, is taking on through their Name It Change It campaign at nameitchangeit.org.
Film Screening of “A Schoolgirl’s Odyssey”  
November 10th

Members of the Women’s Center community and friends of the non-profit organization Circle of Women came together for a viewing of “A Schoolgirl’s Odyssey,” a documentary by Adam B. Ellick. The film tells the story of a Pakistani schoolgirl who loses her chance at an education because of the Taliban; the story follows her family as they are first exiled from their home in the Swat Valley and then anxiously face their return. Attendees learned about the state of women’s education in the Middle East, the work Circle of Women does to build schools for girls in high-risk areas like Pakistan, and the difference that education makes in the lives of girls and young women across the globe.

On Beauty - November 15th

At the event “On Beauty,” students selected and read passages from world literature, focusing on global perceptions of women’s beauty. Readings ranged from locations as diverse as Brazil, Ohio, Lebanon, and Britain and extended into Egypt and the Kung tribe in Africa. We heard passages about the physical features of dolls, especially dolls of different races, how beautiful women and ugly women are heckled in the streets of Brazil, and a professor’s insecurity about his “exotic” Indian student. These were just a few stories introduced by the readers. The event kicked off with the Women’s Center interns presenting a slideshow featuring quotes from literary works like Jane Eyre, Memoirs of a Geisha, pre-Islamic Arabic poetry and more — all of which addressed the compelling theme of beauty as a social construct which differs across the world. Stories of women who attempt to fight or achieve society’s standards of beauty and men’s perceptions of these women made us aware of different places around the world and distanced us from the standard perception of beauty popularized by the western media.

Relationships versus Career: Do you have to choose?  
November 16th

Dr. Joshua Coleman, psychologist and co-chair of the Council on Contemporary Families, gave a talk and led a discussion on dual-career couples and the challenges of balancing working life and personal life. Dr. Coleman is the author of many books, has been a frequent guest on NPR, the BBC, and The Today Show, and has also appeared on Sesame Street, 20/20, Good Morning America, PBS, and numerous news programs. While enjoying a nice meal at the Faculty Club, a group of undergraduates, graduate students, staff, faculty, and administrators shared in a lively conversation about the gendered dynamics of work/life balance, the challenges of sharing housework and childcare responsibilities, and strategies for creating flexibility in both personal and professional life. The event was co-sponsored with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity.

QueerSecrets - November 22nd

Inspired by Post Secret, a project in which people anonymously submit secrets on homemade postcards for publication (www.postsecret.com), the Harvard College Women’s Center and the Queer Students and Allies collected secrets pertaining to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) life at Harvard. The submitted secrets were then displayed in the lounge of the Women’s Center along with space where students were given the opportunity to interact with and respond to the displayed secrets by writing thoughtful messages, supportive comments, and questions. Students then discussed the secrets and how they reflect issues pertaining to LGBTQ life at Harvard. Two particular foci of the discussion included Harvard’s historical prejudice against LGBT students, women, and students of color, and the perceived need for Harvard students to be perfect at all times, and how this was especially difficult for LGBTQ students who have the added struggle of dealing with their sexuality. The submitted secrets were emotionally moving, thoughtful, and candid, and students were genuinely interested in responding to and discussing the secrets in a positive and supporting manner.
Will the Real Professor Lisa Brooks Please Stand Up?
December 1st

The “Real Professor” dinner series provides the opportunity for undergraduates and Harvard community members to connect with prominent female professors outside of the lecture hall. This winter, Professor Lisa Brooks of the History and Literature department came to the Women’s Center to give attendees a real look at her life. After a personal and heartfelt introduction from Suzanna Bobadilla, a Women’s Center intern and one of Professor Brooks’ former students, Professor Brooks regaled the group with tales of her journey to rediscover her Native American Abenaki heritage. She talked about the way in which she used her profession to help her community. Questions from attendees ranged from personal family questions to political questions about the state of indigenous affairs in the U.S. Professor Brooks graciously answered each question, allowing attendees to take away a better understanding of her life and her work.

TED Women Conference - December 7th & 8th

How are women and girls reshaping the future? The popular non-profit TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) hosted its first women-focused conference in December, available by livestream to viewers around the world. The Harvard College Women’s Center, The Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Harvard Men Against Rape, and MenSpeakUp partnered to co-sponsor a livestream showing of the conference, featuring two days’ worth of presentations by luminaries including Madeleine Albright, Eve Ensler, Naomi Klein, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and more.

Spring 2011 Events

Speaking Up in Class - February 4th

Speaking Up In Class is a workshop run by the Bureau of Study Counsel for students who want to increase their participation in class despite reservations or feelings of anxiety. The Women’s Center and the Bureau of Study Counsel partnered to bring a one-time version of the longer workshop series to the Women’s Center lounge. Students shared their experiences and discussed strategies for overcoming anxiety or hesitation in order to become more active participants in class.

When Women Lead - February 28th

The Harvard College Women’s Center and the Xi Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented “When Women Lead.” The event was a women’s leadership workshop given by the Rev. Deborosa Jackson, a bi-vocational pastor and engineer. Rev. Jackson discussed a variety of leadership styles and ways women can implement those styles to be effective leaders. She also touched on the gender disparities that occur in the use of certain styles, which put women at a disadvantage. Participants took a quiz to determine their individual leadership style and engaged in group activities as a way to highlight the characteristics and strengths of their particular styles.

“Standing on my Sisters’ Shoulders” - March 2nd

The film “Standing on My Sisters’ Shoulders” highlights the role women played in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, focusing specifically on women who were active in the movement in Mississippi. Following the movie, there was a discussion led by Lisanne Norman, a graduate student in the department of African-American Studies. The discussion ranged from reflecting on the courage showed by the women in the movie to the legitimacy of or need for a specific black women's movement today. The event was co-sponsored by the Phillips Brooks House Association.
The fifth annual Women’s Week (March 6-10) was organized by the Harvard College Women’s Center, the Women’s Cabinet, and the Seneca, Inc. Women’s Week kicked off with a special fine cut screening of the new documentary film, “Left on Pearl,” which tells the story of the March 6, 1971 International Women’s Day takeover of a Harvard building, 888 Memorial Drive, declaring it a women’s center. During the week, students could attend events ranging from a discussion of cultural perceptions of beauty (co-hosted by the Association of Black Harvard Women, Latinas Unidas, and Styleta), to the second annual Feminist Coming Out Day (a photography exhibit filled with portraits of on-campus feminists), to the Spark Award Banquet (honoring a phenomenal woman professor in science). Women’s Week was host to discussions on goal-setting and professional achievement, the economic impact of birth control and proposed legislation currently facing Congress, and the career paths of women in politics from all political stripes. It also included a self-defense workshop, a poetry-writing workshop, and a panel of prominent young feminist bloggers. Women’s Week 2011 offered Harvard students of all genders a diverse array of events to attend and a rich forum to discuss and celebrate aspects of women’s lives at Harvard and beyond.

From L to R: Sydney Asbury, Deputy Chief of Staff and former campaign manager for Governor Deval Patrick; Jane Swift, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts (1999-2003) and acting Governor of Massachusetts (2001-2003); Mary Margaret Graham, United States Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Collection (2005–2008); and Maralee Schwartz, former political editor of The Washington Post.

Students gather to discuss cultural perceptions of beauty at Harvard.

The following student organizations and offices partnered with the HCWC to host Women’s Week events:

- Association of Black Harvard Women
- Athena Program
- Harvard University Police Department
- Kappa Kappa Gamma
- Latinas Unidas, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
- Queer Students and Allies
- Radcliffe Union of Students
- the Seneca, Inc.
- Strong Women Strong Girls
- Students for Choice
- Styleta
- Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe
- Women’s Initiative in Leadership at the Institute of Politics
- Women’s Cabinet
Pizza & Politics with Ellen Qualls - March 30th

The Women’s Center and the Institute of Politics collaborated to host an intimate lunch discussion with Ellen Qualls, former senior advisor for strategic planning to Nancy Pelosi. Ms. Qualls shared her perspective on the unique qualities women bring to positions of leadership, such as employing multiple strategies for consensus-building. She also spoke about her experiences as senior communications advisor to Gov. Mark Warner of Virginia, a post which she held for five years. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to get an insider’s view on politics and the democratic process.

Recording Intersex: Perspectives on Intersex Identity - March 25th

This movie screening and discussion event explored the various facets of intersex identity with an emphasis on the lives and experiences of people with intersex conditions. The event included a panel dialogue incorporating both activist and historical perspectives on intersex issues and allowed attendees to engage in a discussion with the speakers. Documentary filmmaker and intersex activist Robin Honan shared her thoughts on contemporary problems facing the intersex community and showed a segment from her forthcoming documentary, “Ain’t I A Woman,” which explores these very issues. Professor Elizabeth Reis, a historian at the University of Oregon and author of Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex, shared her own thoughts on how history can better inform our perspectives on intersex identity. The lively and informative discussion touched on issues including the de-medicalization of intersex identities and intersecting medical and social discourses around intersex bodies.

Winona LaDuke Lecture - April 6th

Native American activist and Harvard graduate Winona LaDuke ’82 shared with the Harvard community a lecture entitled “Restoring a Sustainable Economy the Earth can Sustain: Indigenous Economics and Deconstructing Empire.” Winona LaDuke is an Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg who lives and works on the White Earth Reservations, and is mother of three children. She is also the Executive Director of Honor the Earth, where she works on a national level to advocate, raise public support, and create funding for frontline Native environmental groups. At the conclusion of the lecture, Winona was honored with the Harvard Foundation Award, presented by Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, Dr. Allen Counter, who hired Winona in 1978 as the first student to work for the Foundation. The event was co-sponsored by the Women’s Center, the Foundation, and the Harvard University Native American Program.
Spring Crafts Night - April 11th

Spring crafts night at the Women’s Center was a relaxing event for students to participate in as we exited Midterm Season and drew closer to Finals Period. Students from across campus were invited to bring their friends for an evening when they could catch up with one another by playing games, making crafts together, and relaxing with hot chocolate and a cookie in front of the TV. The event took place in the warm, welcoming environment of the Women’s Center lounge and contributed to easing end-of-year stress.

$Start $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop
April 12th

In partnership with the Office of Career Services, the Women’s Center was proud to once again present the $Start $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop. This workshop educates students about the gender wage discrepancy in America, including the unfortunate fact that women make, on average, $0.77 per each $1.00 a man is paid. Over her working lifetime, a woman will earn on average $1 million less than a man simply because of her gender. The $Start $mart workshop taught pre-professional Harvard women to research what a job is worth and assertively negotiate initial salaries, raises, and benefit packages. Students left feeling empowered to head out into the professional world and advocate for themselves, helping to close the gender wage gap in the process.

Women’s Leadership at Harvard: A Discussion
April 25th

Female leaders of Harvard student groups came together for a discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing undergraduate women seeking leadership positions on campus. Moderated by Nannerl Keohane—American political theorist, member of the Harvard Corporation, and former president of Wellesley College and Duke University—the conversation engaged ten undergraduate women leaders in talking about the complex interactions of gender, stereotypes, and leadership on Harvard’s campus and beyond.

SnapShot: Lunch with Susan Meiselas ’71
April 29th

As a photojournalist and freelance photographer, Susan Meiselas, Ed. M ’71, has used her lens to capture the world. The Women’s Center hosted an engaging lunch with the 2011 Harvard Arts Medal recipient as she spoke about her work, where she gets the inspiration for her projects, the effects of technology on the art of photography, and more. Co-sponsored with the Office of Fine Arts.

The Naked Ladies Brunch - April 30th

The Fifth Annual Naked Ladies Brunch, a morning of swapping clothes and eating delicious breakfast food, was a wonderful success. Students from all over campus, including attendees of the Harvard Extension School, came together to trade clothing. Each person who brought things to donate was presented with a number of tickets equal to the number of items donated and could use those tickets to “purchase” other items found in the exchange. Participants who did not bring clothing could purchase tickets for a dollar apiece, and the money collected at the swap, along with the remaining clothing itself, was donated to Bread and Jams, a Cambridge non-profit organization that assists people with the transitions in their lives when they are at risk for homelessness. All of the HCWC staff and interns were present for this event and its success in making students at Harvard College more fashionable was mirrored in the community building that took place.

Above: A student picks out clothing to try on from the donated swap items.

Left: Suzanna Bobadilla ’13 enjoys home-made brunch provided by the Women’s Center for swap attendees.
Ongoing Events

Knitting Group with A Stitch In Time
Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

B iweekly on Saturdays, the Women’s Center hosted knitting group sessions for the student organization A Stitch In Time. A Stitch in Time strives to teach and foster knitting among undergraduates on campus by providing supplies, instruction, and a welcoming environment. In addition, the club connects members with charity organizations in need of hand-knit donations.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
Spring 2011

T hursday afternoons in the spring semester, the Women’s Center was host to the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program, an 8-week intensive training in mindfulness meditation. Based on ancient healing practices, the program offers a way to better manage stress and to restore balance to one’s life. Mindfulness practices included yoga, meditation and specific learning exercises. Co-sponsored by the Harvard College Women’s Center and the Center for Wellness.

Queer Women’s Group with Girl Spot
Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

Weekly on Sunday evenings, the Queer Women’s Group met to discuss a variety of issues surrounding gender, sexuality, queerness, dating, and related issues in a fun, supportive atmosphere. The drop-in group was confidential and provided a space for organic conversations to develop amongst participants. An exciting addition this year was the participation of men and other persons who did not gender-identify as women. This increased the diversity of discussion issues and the atmosphere became even more comfortable and accepting for most participants.

Senior Projects

E ach year, senior interns at the Women’s Center complete capstone projects of their own design. Developed in consultation with the Director and Assistant Director, senior projects must uphold our mission, make an impact on the Harvard College campus, and support the creation of community. This year, four senior interns developed and implemented diverse projects that promote awareness of women’s and gender issues, support contributions by women that challenge, motivate, and inspire, centralize resources, and empower students.

Rachel Gholston ‘11

The Black Woman’s Harvard - April 28th

The Black Woman’s Harvard was a one-day conference-retreat for black women across the university. The event received support from the Office of Career Services, the Bureau of Study Counsel, the Young Black Women’s Society, and the Center for Public Leadership. Invited guests included black female faculty from the different schools at Harvard, staff from Harvard offices and departments, and students from across the schools of the University. It was an engaging and interactive evening event featuring a networking session, concurrent workshops, and a dinner and discussion segment. The workshops focused on women’s leadership, personal finance, career development, and mental health. Discussion over dinner ranged from personal stories about life at Harvard to future career aspirations. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet one another and to build community among black women at Harvard.

Rachel writes, “Initially, I wanted to do something about the black female professionals at Harvard: staff and faculty. I felt that they were not very visible to the undergraduate population and their experiences might provide insight into the Harvard experience and the professional world in general. I undertook this project because during my time at Harvard I benefited so much from the connections I made with other black women on campus, especially graduate students and professors. I realized that many other young black women were not as fortunate to have access to the mentors and role models I had. I wanted to provide the opportunity for black women across the university to come together, share experiences, and form relationships.”

Rachel Gholston ’11 (3rd from left) with attendees at The Black Woman’s Harvard conference-retreat.

“Being a Women’s Center intern was one of my most valuable experiences at Harvard. I learned practical work skills, made lasting friendships, and impacted the Harvard community in a very tangible way.”

Next year, Rachel will head to New York City to begin her studies at Columbia Law School.
Alice Laramore ‘11
Gender as an Aspect of Student Organizations

Alicia writes, “My project was to create a training called Gender as an Aspect of Student Organizations/Programming, which addresses how gender can play out in particular student groups and asks them to examine their particular relationship to gender. This training can be done for an entire student group, the board of a student organization, or a group of student leaders in which each leader is answering questions based on his/her/hir particular group, in order to take a close-up look at the way that gender intersects with their programming. The goals of this training were to develop vocabulary to talk about gender, to introduce the idea of the gender spectrum, to think about how gender operates within a specific program, to think about how one’s own gender affects the program, and to think critically about the intersection of gender and programming.

The training outline consists of goals, materials, and several segments of activities including the introduction and framing, and the “big question” in which people are asked to think critically about gender formation and identity, the gender spectrum, a “gender and this program” piece in which members of the training brainstorm ways that gender impacts their programming, a solution space piece in which, if the intersect of gender and programming revealed some tension, the tension between being true to core values about respect and framing, and the “big question” in which people are asked to think critically about the intersection of gender and programming.

I created three drafts of the facilitator’s guide for this training before actually implementing it in a group meeting of Strong Women Strong Girls. The feedback that I received was highly positive, and I feel that this training was a great contribution to the general programming of the organization.”

Alice’s facilitator’s guide for this training will be made available for Women’s Center staff and interns to use in the coming years and is also now one of the selection of trainings available through the Public Service Academy for public service groups at Harvard.

Matthews Mmopi ‘11
Echoes of Silenced Voices - May 1st

A showcase of dramatic monologues, “Echoes of Silenced Voices” depicted African women’s various encounters with gender-based violence. Through this project, the Women’s Center interrogated the women’s health crisis across the continent of Africa through the lens of gender-based violence. The showcase comprised 8 short monologues that presented factual experiences of gender-based violence, including:

1. The use of rape as a weapon of war during the 1983–2005 civil war in Southern Sudan
2. Violence against female child soldiers during the 1999–2003 Liberian civil war and the 1991–2002 Sierra Leonean civil war
3. “Curative” or “corrective” rape perpetrated against Black lesbians in South Africa by heterosexual men and impacts on the sexual health and dignity of women
4. Violence against women during the 1994 Rwandan genocide
5. Persecution and vilification of women through rape and menstruation due to the lack of sanitary products in Zimbabwe
6. Problems in the constructs of African masculinities and how these masculinities engender violence against women in Africa

Matthews writes, “My hope was to increase information about, awareness of, and the capacity to address the health impacts of (and possibly societal responses to) gender-based violence in many countries in Africa. The issues addressed in the monologues place women’s sexual rights, health, and dignity—together with the responsibilities associated with them—in a global context in the Harvard community.”

This event was made possible by generous support from the Woodward Charitable Foundation, in honor of William Woodward III and his vision.
Ali Underwood ‘11

Gender Research Colloquium - April 22nd

Ali writes, “For my senior project I chose to continue the tradition of providing a platform for undergraduate scholars from across academic disciplines to present research on themes of gender, sex, and sexuality by hosting the second annual Undergraduate Gender Research Colloquium. Because undergraduates often have access to talks by academics, scholars, and others already recognized in their field, I believe the opportunity to present one’s own work can be a valuable experience for undergraduates planning their next steps in the world. To this effect, each of the Colloquium’s presenters expressed the satisfaction they felt after compiling their year’s research into a presentation, noting that sharing their work with others highlighted the magnitude of their accomplishment.

The presentations were meaningful for audience members as well, many of whom engaged in discussion with the presenters and indicated that they had learned something or had previous conceptions challenged in the course of the evening. Panelists represented backgrounds in History and Science, Folklore and Mythology, History, Social Studies, and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. They presented about their work and then answered questions during the Colloquium. Presenters were divided into two panels: the first, entitled “Cross-Cultural Readings of Gendered Practices,” highlighted themes of normative and non-normative performance and behavior in specific cultural or temporal contexts, while the second, “Sexual Spaces and Social Change,” included presentations discussing standards of gender and sexuality in the status quo and what happens when people push those boundaries.

By bringing together students from a diverse range of disciplines—united by their shared interest in questions, conceptions, and explorations of gender and sexuality—the Colloquium sparked dialogue among interdisciplinary voices and inspired attendees to question the complex ways in which gender shapes our social experiences and to adopt not only an awareness of the gender-related injustices in our world, but also a desire to change them.”

“I’ve organized events, cleaned mugs, collaborated with others, and explained why there is no Men’s Center to people of all genders, but in the end, what I’ve learned from my work with the Women’s Center is that perhaps the most valuable use of one’s time is dedication to and exploration of a united and constantly evolving community.”

HCWC Programs

The Women’s Cabinet

The Women’s Cabinet is composed of representatives from women’s- and gender-related student groups on campus and meets bi-weekly in the Women’s Center. The mission of the Women’s Cabinet is to bring groups together for the centralizing of energies, relationships, and resources in common vision for the women’s groups and women’s issues on campus. Women’s Cabinet members review grant applications for the Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund grant program and play a central role in coordinating Women’s Week in the spring.

Active members of the 2010-2011 Women’s Cabinet were: The Association of Black Harvard Women, the Athena Program, Delta Gamma, Girlsport, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Latinas Unidas, the OSAPR Student Alliance, the Organization of Asian-American Sisters in Service, Queer Students and Allies, the Radcliffe Union of Students, Smart Woman Securities, the South Asian Women’s Collective, the Seneca, Inc., Strong Women Strong Girls, Students for Choice, Styleta, Women in Business, Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe, and the Women’s Leadership Project.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund

In 2010-2011, a total of $11,661 was awarded on the basis of 25 individual grant applications. Here is what some of the recipients had to say about the significance of receiving a grant:

“...the panel was a success, during which students were able to hear the experiences of other women in different areas of science. My original understanding and expectations for the project changed in that a much wider range of science fields were represented than what I’d originally imagined, which is great because it really shows that there are a great number of opportunities for women out there. We had speakers in fields ranging from molecular and cellular biology to astrophysics.”

—Gina Pan, Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe, National Symposium for the Advancement of Women in Science

“The team (all 26 players, subs, and coaches) was able to fly to Florida. This was the best possible scenario for us, as driving would have exhausted everyone and caused us to miss more school. Everyone was well rested, so we were able to play our best. We won the National Championship! Thank you so much for your support!”

—Kellie Desrochers, Radcliffe Rugby Football Club, Rugby Women’s Division II National Championship

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund was created in the pioneering, independent spirit of Ann Radcliffe, who, in 1643, established the first scholarship fund for Harvard College, and for whom Radcliffe College was named two-and-a-half centuries later. The ART/WCCF is primarily funded by the Houghton Endowment, which was established by a gift from Maisie K. Houghton ’62 and James R. Houghton ’58. Grant applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Women’s Cabinet, which makes grants to student groups to fund projects that support the visibility of women and women’s issues within Harvard College.
The Radcliffe Mentor Program

Mother Theresa once said, “Do not wait for others, but do it alone, person by person.” Making a commitment to those coming up after one’s self, in efforts to ease the way, is the cornerstone of the Radcliffe Mentoring Program, a signature program of the Harvard College Women’s Center. This year, the program—which matches undergraduates with alumnae of Harvard and Radcliffe for career development, personal support, and networking—served 125 students, helping them to connect with alums ranging from classes of the late 50’s to the class of 2008. Connecting with senior women in one’s field of interest has tangible benefits: In the words of one mentee, “I hoped to talk to a professional writer about getting started with writing. She gave me great advice, and the program ended up being very helpful.”

The kick-off in October was, as always, a celebratory gathering of both new and returning pairs, focusing on beginning (or renewing) their plans for a meaningful mentoring relationship. Throughout the fall, the HCWC provided mentors and mentees with food for thought about meeting together via our regular newsletter—this year in an online format. In addition to suggested activities, each newsletter featured a different mentor’s life story as inspiration for students and mentors alike.

Throughout the year, mentors and mentees pursued a variety of activities together, including shadowing at the mentor’s workplace, reviewing résumés and cover letters, attending lectures, concerts, and plays together, or just meeting for coffee at a local café. The emphasis of the program continues to be driven by the pairs themselves—their needs, goals, and mutual interests.

The “Career Conversations” event, held in February, was kicked off by Director of Career Services, Robin Mount, who introduced participants to the idea that choosing a career is more complicated than simply deciding what one wants to do—there are a host of other questions to consider, such as: With whom do you wish to work? What kind of work environment is most appealing? How much autonomy do you need, or conversely, how much structure and support for your work? Are opportunities for advancement important to you, or is stability and routine more so? Following the planting of these provocative seeds, mentees made their way around to four different tables to discuss these and other questions about worklife balance (or the elusiveness of it), how to keep relationships strong while pursuing a career, and how to think about concentration choice relative to your future job. Mentors and mentees alike commented that the “round robin” format was enjoyable and that it is especially useful to meet and benefit from the insights of new mentors.

The program strives to serve the interests of students through the fostering of significant relationships. If you—or an alumna you know—live within 50 miles of Boston and are interested in taking part, please don’t hesitate to contact us at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu

Women’s Leadership Project

This year, the Women’s Leadership Project started on strong footing with 26 talented executive board and committee members devoted to making WLP’s presence felt on campus. We are so proud of the hard work of our Leadership Development, Women’s Leadership Conference, Social, Alumni Relations, and Finance chairs and committee members. Throughout the year, the Leadership Development Committee hosted several “leadership teas,” while attendees enjoyed filling cake or Sweet cupcakes, they learned firsthand about the workplace and work-life experiences of extraordinary women. For example, we hosted teas with a BBC correspondent, Harvard faculty members, an adviser to the President, and the CEO of the Global Fund for Women. In addition to the events hosted by the Leadership Development Committee, the Social Committee brought the WLP board together, the Alumni Relations Committee created a newsletter for several hundred WLP alumni, the Finance Committee helped with the logistics of our events, and the Conference Committee planned a wonderful 24th annual Women’s Leadership Conference.

Andrea Spector & Amaka Uzoh
Women’s Leadership Project Co-Chairs

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (WISTEM) Mentor Program

The Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WISTEM) Mentor Program serves women in the STEM fields at Harvard University. We match undergraduate students with graduate students in a related field of study. WISTEM graduate student mentors serve as a source of support and experience to younger students. This occurs primarily through one-on-one mentoring. Mentors and mentees meet over coffee, lunch, and dinner throughout the academic year and are encouraged to discuss classes, research, and graduate school. This past year WISTEM matched about 50 mentor-mentee pairs.

In addition to one-on-one personal mentoring, we hosted a series of events throughout the academic year to provide participants with important information for navigating the STEM fields as well as an opportunity to interact with other WISTEM participants. Our first event of the year was WISTEM Mentor Training in October. The goal of this training was to provide mentors in our WISTEM Mentor Program with some basic skills to utilize in their mentoring relationships. We then held the Fall Kick-off where mentors and mentees met for the first time and were oriented to the program. In February, mentors and mentees attended the WISTEM Spring Luncheon. The main event of the luncheon was an invited speaker who discussed science and gender and also answered questions from the audience.

As indicated by feedback from WISTEM participants in evaluations of the program conducted in December and May, the program is effective and most respondents are very satisfied with their experience. Next year we will continue to expand the program as it enters its eleventh year.

Dr. Catherine Espaillat
Science Mentor Program coordinator
National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow
Women’s Leadership Awards

The Harvard College Women’s Center continues to prioritize the recognition and celebration of women’s leadership at Harvard, particularly that demonstrated by current and former students. In support of this central part of our mission, the 14th annual Women’s Leadership Awards took place on April 20th at the Charles Hotel as over 100 students, administrators, and faculty gathered to enjoy a cocktail reception, dinner, and stirring speeches from this year’s recipients. The Women’s Leadership Award is given to a senior in the College whose leadership has had a meaningful impact on campus and who has set an example that inspires women to assume leadership roles. This year’s award recipient was Madeleine Ballard ’11, former co-coordinator of the Peer Health Exchange, Rhodes Scholar finalist, and recruiting chair for the championship-winning Radcliffe Rugby Women’s Football Club. Honorable mention was given to Emily Harburg ’11, former Co-Vice President and Chair of the Social Outreach team for the Harvard College Leadership Institute.

In her acceptance speech, Ballard asserted that “leadership is something you do, not something you talk about.” Her philosophy of leadership as a steadfast, quotidian practice available to everyone—not solely to individuals who are exemplary or exceptional—is one shared by the Harvard College Women’s Center staff. Ballard reminded the audience that leadership is about understanding the impact that our behavior has on others, for good or for ill, and setting an example we are proud to live by.

The ceremony also recognized the winner of this year’s Women’s Professional Achievement Award, which goes to an alumna who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in her field. This year’s award went to Christina M. Tchen ’78, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady Michelle Obama as well as Executive Director for the White House Council on Women and Girls.

The Harvard College Women’s Leadership Awards are made possible through a generous endowment established by a gift from Terrie Fried Bloom ’75. The annual celebration of the WLA ensures that we at the Women’s Center realize our mission of celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire.

Alumnae Involvement in the HCWC

This year, HCWC interns planned and hosted an evening of history and music called “Reclaiming Radcliffe.” During this event, we learned that spirit abounded for students of Radcliffe in the early 20th century. Anne Hunnewell of the class of 1911, penned the following anthem to her alma mater:

R-a-d-c-l-i-f-f-e! Oh!
Radcliffe, thy girls assembled,
Will always give thee homage true.
We are thy daughters loyal
In all that thou wouldst have us do.
We swing thy banners proudly.
We raise thine emblem to the skies,
We cheer our Alma Mater,
We cheer our College, great and wise.

We continue to have a fruitful and lively connection with the Committee for the Equality of Women at Harvard, the group that has led initiatives for greater gender equity in the faculty as well as support and mentoring for women who are junior faculty here. This group has also steadfastly supported the HCWC in offering leadership development programming for students. This year, we are especially pleased to have formed a new partnership with the Radcliffe Shared Interest Group of the Harvard Alumni Association, and together we revived the Jane Opel award at a wonderful breakfast gathering the day after commencement at the Student Organization Center at Hilles. This year’s recipient, Hema Magge ’01, spent a year working in South Africa on health access and founded the University of Pennsylvania’s first student-run global health program through a community partnership with a local HIV/AIDS hospice in Gaborone, Botswana. We plan to make the Opel Award Breakfast an annual event during Commencement week and hope more alumnae from all classes will be part of this wonderful new tradition.

If you or others you know are alumnae of Radcliffe or Harvard, we welcome you to be part of our community! Please feel free to attend any and all of our events (which you can find out about by joining our mailing list—email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu), and if you’d like to work with us on planning an event during a reunion weekend, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Many thanks to our alumnae/i for their positive energy, generosity and support!

While today’s Harvard women no longer think of themselves as Radcliffe students, they have gained immeasurably from the legacy of Radcliffe. This is never more apparent than when we gather with a group of alumnae and are reminded of the diversity and breadth of accomplishment of all those who once called Radcliffe home.

We are always happy to have alumnae classes visit the HCWC to talk about our programs and initiatives and to share their perspectives on their experiences at Radcliffe and Harvard. We are grateful also for gifts made to the center to support our work, for which alumnae can receive Harvard College class credit.

Reunion events are a cornerstone of alumnum involvement at the HCWC. This year, Susan presented a snapshot of “today’s Harvard woman” to alumnae from the class of 1965 at their 45th reunion in October 2010 at an event in the Radcliffe gym. We were also happy to be joined by the class of 1961 during their 50th reunion in May; we learned from members of this class that women were not permitted to wear trousers to class in their era. Some students flouted this rule, especially when necessary—and on very cold winter days! They also had a 10 PM curfew and were only given exceptions if they were doing something that was “approved” by their house mother. These realities are barely imaginable to women at Harvard today, and yet being able to invoke these stories underscores the value of our work with undergraduates is an important reminder of how far we have come.

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Ways to Get Involved

Attend an Event
We invite you to join us for any of our events, which are free and open to the community unless otherwise noted. To keep up with the many programs and events that happen at the Women’s Center, visit our website (http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu), join our weekly mailing list, or become a fan of our Facebook page. People of all genders are always welcome at our events.

Join our Mailing List
Receiving our weekly email newsletter is the easiest way to stay up-to-date on Women’s Center events and opportunities. Email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu if you would like to be added to the email list!

Apply for a Mentor
The Radcliffe Mentor Program connects current Harvard undergraduates with alumnae mentors in a wide variety of fields. If you are an alumna interested in becoming a mentor, please email us at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu. From recent grads to retired alums, we welcome new mentors from all stages of life! Mentee applications are accepted beginning in the fall semester, and the application period will be announced on our website.

The WISTEM Mentor Program matches Harvard undergrads with a graduate student mentor currently enrolled at Harvard in one of the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Applications open in the fall.

Host a Meeting at the Women’s Center
Any student, student group, or Harvard office may reserve the conference room for regularly scheduled meetings. The lounge and full kitchen may also be reserved for one-time use depending on availability. Alumnae/i wishing to host a meeting in our space may contact us at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu.

Apply for a Grant
If your student organization is interested in organizing a project or event that supports the visibility of women or women’s issues at Harvard, please consider applying for an Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund grant. Applications are reviewed 3-4 times per year beginning in late September. For more information, please visit the website (http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/grants).

Hang Out in our Space
The Women’s Center is designed to be a welcoming and comfortable space on campus. We invite you to curl up with a book in the lounge, work on a paper on your laptop in our quiet conference room, or sit and chat with your friends and our friendly staff. You can even reserve the kitchen and bake a plate of fresh cookies!

Nominate a Student for the WLA
Anyone can nominate an outstanding leader in the senior class for the prestigious Women’s Leadership Award (see facing page). Nomination details will be available through our mailing list in late fall 2011.

Bring us Your Idea!
Let us know if you want to take action on an issue affecting women on campus. The Women’s Center aims to be responsive to current events at Harvard, in our community, and in the wider world. We are always open to developing programming in response to a perceived need.

Our Space

The Women’s Center offers different spaces suited to a variety of needs for students and student groups. Our lounge has couches, armchairs, floor pillows, and a plasma television with DVD player and can accommodate up to 30 people. Our conference room offers a quieter space for students to study and hold meetings, and students are welcome to check email at our computer stations and utilize the copier/printer/scanner/fax machine for a small fee per page.

These spaces are normally open to all Harvard students from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm and Monday to Wednesday, 6-10pm during the school year. During the summer, holidays, and January term, the Women’s Center is closed in the evenings.

Students or student groups seeking to use the conference room for meetings or the lounge for events should email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu in advance to reserve the space.

We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to make the Women’s Center’s space your own, either by hosting a meeting here or just stopping by to relax between classes or in the evening.
What Our Community Has to Say about Us...

This year, the Women’s Center conducted an anonymous survey to learn how well we are meeting the needs of our community. Respondents were asked how they think the Women’s Center benefits the campus, whether it creates a welcoming and inclusive environment, and how they experience the gender-inclusive aspect of our space. Here are some of their responses...

Do you feel the Women’s Center creates a comfortable atmosphere for everyone?

It is a very relaxing space where I can meet with friends, take a break, or study. My home away from home.

I’ve been here to take my freshman seminar class which I’ve really enjoyed. I also love the environment—it is very open and warm and I always feel comfortable and welcome.

I completely agree that the Women’s Center creates a comfortable atmosphere for everyone.

YES—people of all genders/races/etc. are super welcomed here. Yes! The Women’s Center’s warm inclusive attitude and non-judgmental atmosphere make it a comfortable place for everyone.

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How has the Women’s Center benefited you and/or the campus?

The Women’s Center has provided a foundation for campus wide gender equality and an outlet to come together to study both men/women in society.

Safe space for all—Harvard can be quite exclusive! There’s too much exclusivity on campus. We need more spaces like this.

It has provided a space/voice for gender/sexuality causes and is a comfortable and non-judgmental space.

The Women’s Center has a gender-inclusive policy. How does this policy affect your experience here?

I love that this space is gender-inclusive. It makes the community feel stronger—I am pro-inclusion, when it comes to areas of gender, race, class, sexual orientation and ability, in particular.

Do you have any other suggestions/comments for us?

Your interns are lovely! You rock! Exist forever!

HCWC People

Student Interns

The undergraduate student interns help staff the Women’s Center, plan our events, and publicize the Women’s Center’s initiatives to the rest of the campus. Their passion and dedication shape our mission and our approach to promoting and supporting the women’s community at Harvard.

The 2010-2011 staff of the Harvard College Women’s Center.
Administrative Staff

Dr. Susan Marine, Outgoing Director

Susan is the founding Director of the Harvard College Women's Center. For the past five years, she has provided oversight to all aspects of the center's work, with a particular focus on the Radcliffe Mentor Program and alumnae relations for the Center. Susan is also Assistant Dean in the Office of Student Life. Susan hails from the great state of Indiana but now considers herself to be a New Englander for life. Next year, Susan will be joining the faculty in the graduate school of education at Merrimack College.

Dr. Gina Helfrich, Incoming Director

In the 2010-11 year, as Assistant Director, Gina worked with the student interns to coordinate the Women's Center's wide range of programs and events. She oversees the Women's Cabinet and the Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women's Center Community Fund and works closely with the WISTEM Mentor Program and Radcliffe Mentor Program. Originally from Texas, Gina joined the Women's Center staff after earning her Ph.D. in Philosophy and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Bridget Duffy, Administrative Coordinator

Bridget works with the staff and interns to ensure that the Women's Center runs smoothly. She handles the financial and logistical needs of the Women's Center, manages the reservations of the meeting areas, and works with the Radcliffe Mentor Program. Born in Boston, Bridget became a member of the staff after a decade working in the administration of alternative medicine schools in Cambridge and Watertown, MA.

Dr. Catherine Espaillat, WISTEM Mentor Program Coordinator

Catherine is the program coordinator for the WISTEM Mentor Program, which pairs female graduate students and undergraduates in mentoring relationships. She is a National Science Foundation Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Catherine's scientific research focuses on the formation of planets around baby stars. She is also very interested in issues of gender and race, particularly their impact in the STEM fields.
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