



Harvard College Women's Center 2007-2008 Annual Report





The 2007-2008 staff of the Harvard College Women's Center.

HCWC 2007-2008 Statistics

Cups of coffee served at the HCWC	10,430
Number of major HCWC events	29
Number of Ann Radcliffe Trust grants awarded	64
Money given to student groups through ART grants	\$20,719
Channels on the HCWC TV	208
Visits to the HCWC website	6,345
Number of Women's Leadership Award nominations	52
Student groups who held meetings in the HCWC	55
Total number of student group meetings in the HCWC	496
Student group that held the most meetings	Radcliffe Union of Students
Number of groups and offices who cosponsored events with the HCWC	27
Pages printed by students at the HCWC	416,048
Number of countries represented by HCWC Staff	4

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For the most up-to-date information about the Women's Center and our programs and events, please visit our website at

<http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu>

Harvard College Women's Center

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The mission of the Harvard College Women's Center is to promote awareness of women's and gender issues and to support contributions by women that challenge, motivate, and inspire. By centralizing resources and offering original programs, we empower students and student organizations to achieve their visions in pursuit of these goals. The Women's Center is committed to creating a welcoming environment that encourages diversity of perspective, experience, and values.



Note from the Director



HCWC Director Susan Marine (left) with "Alum-inating" guest speaker Rebecca Onie '97-98, HLS '03.

Greetings from the Harvard College Women's Center!

It's hard to believe the 2007-2008 academic year has come to a close...it seems like it went by in a blink for all of us! We invite you to read about our year at the Women's Center in the pages of this report.

As you will see, it was a year of stimulating programs and events, thought-provoking dialogue, and celebrations of women's accomplishments on campus and in the world beyond... all shaped by the vision and passions of our 14 undergraduate and graduate interns and the 30 student organizations we advise and serve. In our second year of operation, we've continued to simultaneously expand and refine our mechanisms for outreach, so that the offerings of the Women's Center reflect the diversity of interests and opinions about the status of women and gender issues at Harvard. What we know is this: students have a wide range of experiences and perspectives on what it means to be a woman at Harvard, and how

their gender identity shapes – and is shaped by – the other aspects of their lives here. Our efforts are continuously aimed at encouraging students to think critically and constructively about the role gender plays in their lives and to work for change where they see that change is necessary. Oh and – to make sure to relax, to connect with others, and to pursue things they simply enjoy during their time here as well.

As always, our work would not be possible, and would not reach the number of students it does, without the steadfast support of our many College and community partners including the Harvard College Dean's Office, Student Life and Activities, the Phillips Brooks House Association, the Harvard Foundation, the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, and the Office of Career Services, to name just a few. Our deepest gratitude to them, as we move forward into our third year with renewed excitement about the possibilities we can create together.

Please know that your feedback is welcome! And do be in touch with me if you have an idea about a program or event for 2008-09, or to share any concerns or thoughts about the ways we're working to build community at Harvard. For the year that just flew by, and for what we are steadily and meaningfully building together in the future, we extend a sincere and enthusiastic thanks!

Sincerely,

Susan Marine
Director

Note from the Program Administrator



Program Administrator Sandra Ullman '07 (center) with interns Katie Frett GSE '08 (left) and Ridhi Kashyap '10 (right).

Dear friends,

Thank you for your interest in the Harvard College Women's Center! I have had the exciting task of working on our programs and events for the past academic year, our office's second year in operation, and I am delighted to share a peek into our year with you. In the 2007-2008 year, the Women's Center's programs tackled a broad range of topics, – from feminist performance art to salary negotiation strategies for young women – as we sought to create events that would challenge and inspire the Harvard community.

As the presidential primary race progressed, the Women's Center focused on issues pertaining to women in politics through a campaigning workshop for women running for student government and a film screening of "Running with High Heels" that sparked dialogue about the challenges facing women on the campaign trail. This year featured the founding of the Women's Center's student magazine *Amplify*, as well as opportunities to hear from young writer Elizabeth

Little about the publishing world and scholar Hillary Chute about her research on women's graphic novels. The arts have featured prominently in the Women's Center's programs through our sponsorship of a lecture by performance artist Carolee Schneemann and a production of Adelheid Roosen's *Veiled Monologues*, as well as in our biannual student art exhibits and two wildly successful pub nights featuring female student musicians. The Women's Center offered alternative career perspectives through our "Aluminating!" dinner series – we heard from Rebecca Onie '98, HLS '03 about her work founding Project HEALTH and Katya Fels Smyth '93 about her career developing non-profits to assist homeless women.

Putting on programs at the Women's Center is a truly collaborative process, and I cannot give enough thanks to our wonderful community – interns, students, colleagues, partner offices, and student organizations – for the invaluable role they play in realizing our mission through original and creative events. To anyone with a vision for a new event that would promote women's and gender issues at Harvard, I invite you to contact me! I love working with our partners new and old, and I am committed to continually innovating our programs, events, and outreach.

For more information about our work and our plans for the upcoming academic year, please visit our website at: <http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu>. Have a great summer!

Best,
Sandra Ullman
Program Administrator



HCWC History

by Shauna L. Shames GSAS, Harvard College '01

Although the HCWC was founded in 2006, its roots stretch back several decades (some would say centuries), and especially to a confluence of triggering events in 1999. Since 1971, there have been five women's centers at Harvard, but limited funding provided by the College and student turnover assured that only one lasted more than a few years. Students who founded these five centers often struggled with achieving consensus on what the center should be: a safe haven for women to privately discuss and address gender issues, an activist center, or both? After each center closed, students started organizing a movement to found a new women's center, sometimes but not often achieving success.

When I came to Harvard College as a first-year in 1997, I met older students who spoke ardently of the need for a dynamic women's center on campus. However, their movement was disorganized, particularly since there was a women's-center-like space in Agassiz House in Radcliffe Yard, called the Lyman Common Room (LCR). The LCR housed a collection of books and videos about women and gender, kept many student groups' files, and provided meeting space, movie screenings, and conferences. It was a lovely space, but not much else; any events, programming, or fundraising depended wholly on student initiative, which came in fits and spurts.

Then in 1999, Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges announced their historic final merger, effectively severing Radcliffe's ties to the undergraduate population. Before this, Radcliffe was the source of support for women's programs including research assistantships, a mentorship program, funding for women's and gender groups like the Radcliffe Union of Students (RUS), and the LCR. Following the merger, the LCR space was converted into offices, and the future of many of the women's programs and funding was in doubt.

That same year, a series of highly-publicized rape cases led several concerned female students to found the Coalition Against Sexual Violence (CASV), which sought better policies and improved administrative response to the ongoing problem of campus sexual assault. At the same time, student activism was on the rise, with groups like Living Wage and No Sweat holding marches and rallies. So we women got active; 10 of us, representing several hundred students through RUS, CASV, Latinas Unidas, the Association of Black Radcliffe Women, the Women's Leadership Project, and Students for Choice, formed a committee to petition for a women's center.

Our initial efforts were fruitless and frustrating; despite our experiences, we were told that women were fully-empowered Harvard students and did not need a center. In 2000, we found a little leeway; the

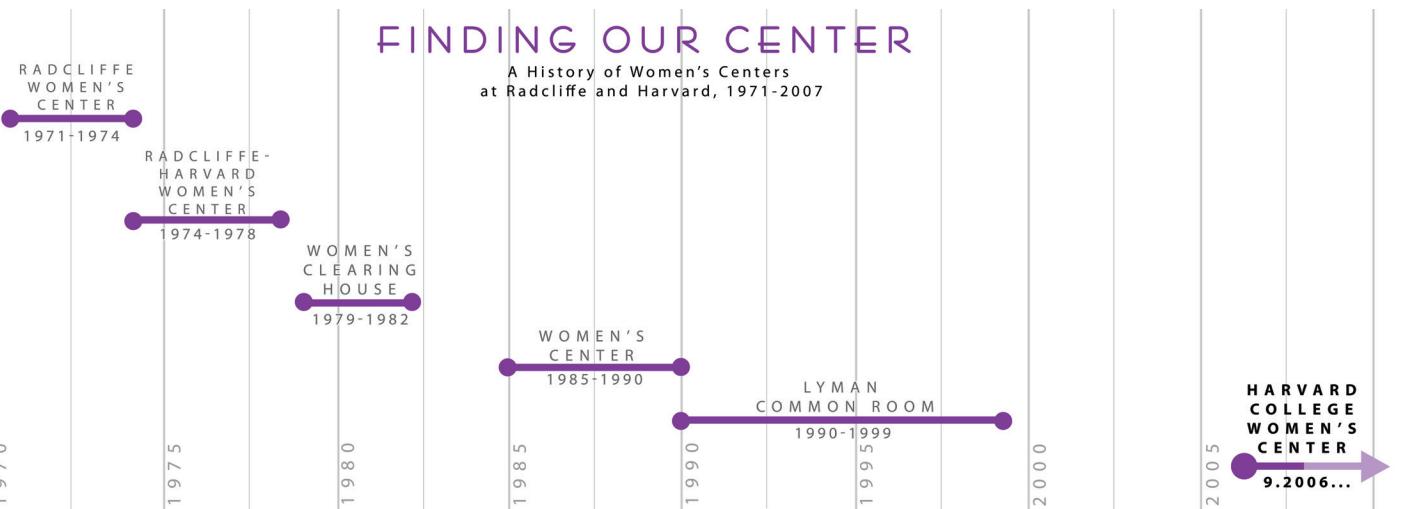


Members of the class of '48 visit the HCWC. From left: Director Susan Marine, Helene Mandelbaw '48, Natalie Ryan '48, Helen Raisz '48, and Natasha Alford '08.



FINDING OUR CENTER

*A History of Women's Centers
at Radcliffe and Harvard, 1971-2007*



Timeline created by Nikki Johnson GSD '08. PHOTOS ABOVE: Radcliffe College Archives, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.

College created the Ann Radcliffe Trust to fill the void left by Radcliffe's absence in undergraduate life, and in 2001, the Trust published a report I co-authored entitled "Reinventing the Wheel." The report likened women at Harvard to a wheel, stating, "there is no cohesive, institutionalized center to the women's community. The Harvard-Radcliffe merger removed Radcliffe as the wheel's center, without replacing it with a corresponding centralizing force."

In 2002, several students through the CASV brought a Justice Department Title IX suit against Harvard's sexual assault policies. The Leaning Committee, formed by the administration in response to the suit and chaired by Professor Jennifer Leaning, studied the issues for a year and produced a report that led to vast changes, including better sexual assault policies and the creation of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (OSAPR) in 2003.

Then, in 2004, when then-Harvard-President Lawrence Summers' remarks about women in science caused a national controversy, we as alumnae and current students again began to organize and petition for greater attention to women's issues and concerns across the university, including reviving the push for a women's center. From 2004 to 2006, RUS students wrote a report on the need for a women's center on campus, and they along with several interested alumni (including myself and the members of the Committee for the Equality of Women at Harvard) mounted a full-court

press publicity initiative. We worked to educate students, faculty, and deans about the need for the center and to allay fears (some students and administrators worried, for instance, that such a center would exclude men). We wrote articles in the Harvard Crimson, held meetings, and wrote letters to deans and faculty, using the opportunity created by Summers' comments to call attention to the many gender issues still requiring attention on the Harvard campus.

In 2005, the College administration started planning for a fully-college-funded women's center, through investment in additional spaces for student social life and student organizations support across campus including the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub and the Student Organization Center at Hilles. Allocation of College funding for a women's center, and the vision and commitment to making it happen, was spearheaded by Dean of the College Benedict Gross and Associate Dean Judith Kidd. A search committee of faculty, staff, and students appointed Susan Marine, formerly Director of the OSAPR, as the new Director of the first-ever Harvard College Women's Center. Although there have been several women's centers through the years, the HCWC is the first to be fully funded by the College and to have a professional staff, which makes a tremendous difference for its programming, capacity, and stability.

Shauna Shames is a graduate student intern at the Harvard College Women's Center.



Fall 2007 Events

UC Campaigning Workshop: Sept. 17th, 2007

In an effort to address the under-representation of women in student government at Harvard – in 2006, nine out of 35 Undergraduate Council representatives were women – the Women's Center hosted a campaigning workshop in the first week of the semester to encourage women to run for a position on the UC.

Women and men packed into the Women's Center lounge, eager to receive advice from current UC leaders including UC Outreach Director Andrea Flores '10 and UC President Ryan Petersen '08. The UC representatives presented an overview of their positions, information on the council's parliamentary procedure, and scenarios on campaign strategies. The event was cosponsored with the Undergraduate Council.



Andrea Flores addresses a group of hopeful UC candidates in the Women's Center's lounge.

UC ELECTIONS OFFER A MORE DIVERSE COUNCIL, *The Harvard Crimson*, 10/3/07

"The fall's Undergraduate Council elections closed on Monday, revealing a new session of the UC that includes notably more women than last semester... One semester after council leaders identified increased diversity as one of their goals, 13 women will assume seats on the 35-person council this year, up from the nine that filled the roster last semester."

'I'm really pleased,' said UC Outreach Director Andrea R. Flores '10, who sought to expand the UC's candidate pool last month through measures that included a freshman campaign workshop and a panel for women interested in politics.

'I think the nature of any representative body that is elected by the student body should be comprised of half women and half men, especially if that is what the student body consists of,' Flores said."

- CHRISTIAN FLOW



HCWC Open House: Sept. 20th, 2007



ABOVE: Students dig into a wide selection of desserts.

BETWEEN: The Women's Center maintains a chest of board games for the use of our visitors.



The Radcliffe Pitches, an all-female student a capella group, performed several of their signature jazzy numbers for the guests at the open house.

The Women's Center welcomed students back to school with its second annual open house. Over 50 students came to listen to live music by the Radcliffe Pitches, enjoy each other's company, and get acquainted with the resources and atmosphere of the Women's Center. Those who had never been in the space before received a tour, and many of the attendees used the opportunity to think and talk about gender at Harvard in new ways.

Guests participated in interactive brainstorming activities, which also served to decorate the walls of the Women's Center. One poster asked students to answer the question "what is a Women's Center?" and another "who is the Women's Center?" Interns also took Polaroid photographs of attendees and used the photos to create a "Faces of the Women's Center" display; these activities were designed to deepen a sense of community and inclusion.



The screening of *Far From Home* (directed by Rachel Tsutsumi) prompted the students who attended to confront hard questions about school desegregation and racial discrimination and to discuss how gender figures into these issues.

The documentary follows an African-American student who participates in METCO, the voluntary busing program that brings Boston inner-city youth into the affluent suburbs to attend public school. Gene Corbin, the executive director of the Philips Brooks House Association, lead a group discussion after the film. The conversation progressed from the personal experience of viewers to the distinction between segregation and congregation and the responsibility society bears for promoting diversity in either case. The event was cosponsored with Strong Women, Strong Girls and the Association of Black Harvard Women.



Courtesy of Women Make Movies, www.wmm.com

Far From Home Film: Sept. 27th, 2007



PBHA Executive Director Gene Corbin leads a conversation about school desegregation at the Women's Center.

Running in High Heels Film: Oct. 5th, 2007



MA State Rep. Alice Peisch tells Harvard undergraduates about her experience running for elected office.

The documentary sparked heated debate around the following questions: do women in politics have a responsibility to act as a representative for all women? How do female politicians balance women's issues and other issues in a campaign? And how can women overcome the "gender gap" in politics?

In a dynamic collaboration, Shames brought in her academic background while Peisch relayed practical knowledge from her experience in running for office in Massachusetts.

Running in High Heels, a documentary directed by Maryann Breschard about the under-representation of women in elected office, was screened through a collaboration of the Women's Center and the Institute of Politics' Women's Initiative in Leadership. After the screening, GSAS PhD candidate Shauna Shames and Massachusetts State Representative Alice Peisch led a group discussion.



HCWC Intern Shauna Shames speaks on the challenges facing women on the campaign trail.

Carolee Schneemann Lecture: Oct. 9th, 2007

On October 9th, groundbreaking performance artist Carolee Schneemann gave a retrospective presentation and lecture on her work in the Fong Auditorium. The event was well-attended by students and professors from Harvard and other Boston schools, and Ms. Schneemann, now in her late sixties, gave a comprehensive discussion of her artistic and personal journey through the art-world, beginning with her work in the mid-1950s, using audio, film, and still images to aid her storytelling.

Although probably best-known for her performance piece "Interior Scroll," in which she read from a paper as she pulled it out from the inside of her vagina, Schneemann has been prolific as a visual, film, and

performance artist. Her work is unrelentingly challenging and feminist, often concerned with the collision of the body and the mind.

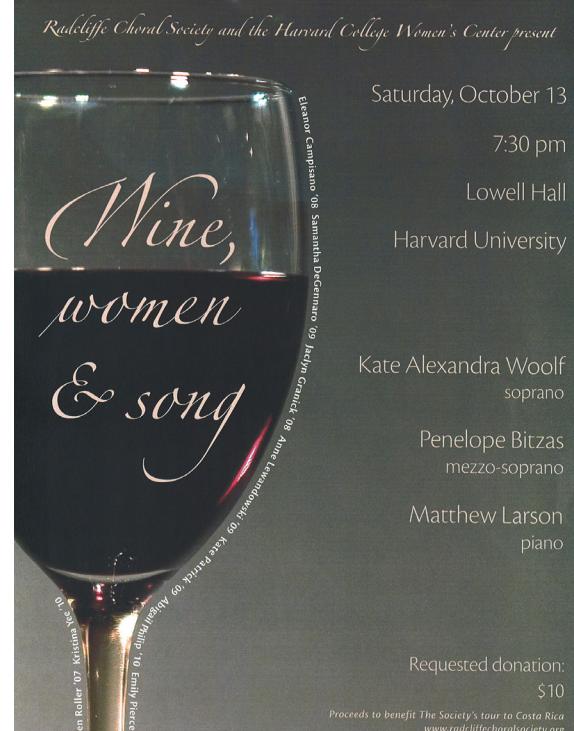
Schneemann is a brave artist whose work is inspiring. Though her art is sometimes belittled as merely shocking, her presentation of both her history with the world of art and her work itself was moving and thought-provoking. Despite all the challenges she faced as an artist and as a woman in a male-dominated field, Schneemann clearly approaches her work with an ever-present joy and playfulness, which she communicated to the audience through more than just her words.

"The Schneemann event was fantastic - I appreciated it so much. First of all, I recommended the event to my class (Gender and Performance - WGS 1133), and over half the students attended - even though it was not required! The students had seen 'Interior Scroll' in class, and it was amazing to see it again with Schneemann present, and in the context of her astonishing other work."

-PROF. ROBIN BERNSTEIN



Radcliffe Choral Society Concert: Oct. 13th, 2007



The Women's Center sponsored a Radcliffe Choral Society benefit concert at Lowell Lecture Hall to raise money for the choral group's summer tour to Costa Rica. The evening's program—entitled "Wine, Women, and Song"—consisted of songs about the lives of such historical heroines as Cleopatra, Juliet, and the wives of Henry VIII. Featured performers included soprano Kate Alexandra Woolf and mezzo-soprano Penelope Bitzas, as well as the following students: Eleanor Campisano '08, Samantha DrGennaro '09, Jaclyn Granick '08, Anne Lewandowski '09, Kate Patrick '09, Abigail Philip '10, Emily Pierce '10, Lauren Roller '07, and Kristina Yee '10. The vocalists were accompanied by pianist Matthew Larson.

The Veiled Monologues: Oct. 16th, 2007

The Women's Center helped sponsor the opening night performance of Adelheid Roosen's *The Veiled Monologues* at Zero Arrow Street Theater and distributed tickets free of charge to Harvard students. The idea for *The Veiled Monologues* came when Dutch actress Roosen performed in Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* and decided to interview Muslim women in the Netherlands about their sexuality. Roosen compiled these interviews into a series of monologues that touch on subjects like marriage, sex, and courtship in Islamic communities.

Stacey Kors praised *The Veiled Monologues* in the Boston Globe for offering "a rare glimpse into the kind of strong communities of women that have privately flourished in male-dominated cultures" and for maintaining a frank and nonjudgmental tone. The production tackled difficult social issues, like the anxiety surrounding the preservation of virginity, but managed to do so with sensitivity, respect, and humor.

After the performance, Roosen and the three actresses spoke about the play and took questions from the audience. This production was cosponsored with the American Repertory Theater, the Arts and Culture fund of the Provost of Harvard University, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, and the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.



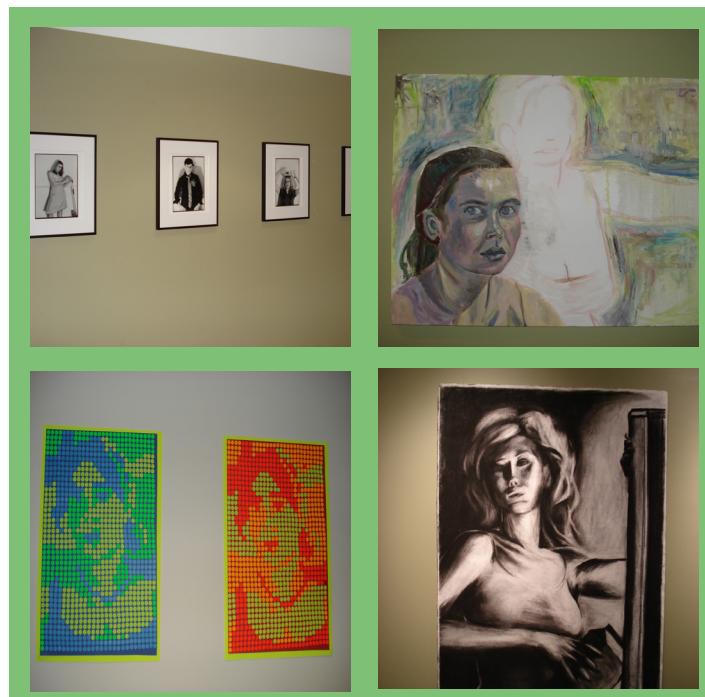
Image from the American Repertory Theater (<http://www.amrep.org/veiled/>).



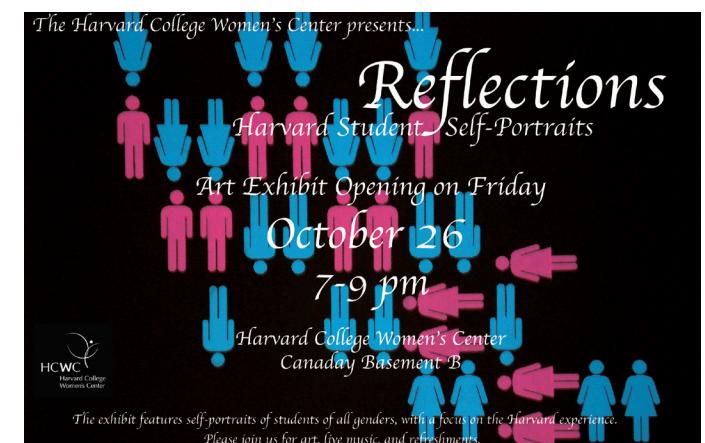
"Reflections" Art Exhibit Opening: Oct. 26th, 2007



Andrés Castro Samayoa '10 poses in front of a wall of silkscreen prints by student artist Coale Tylander '08.



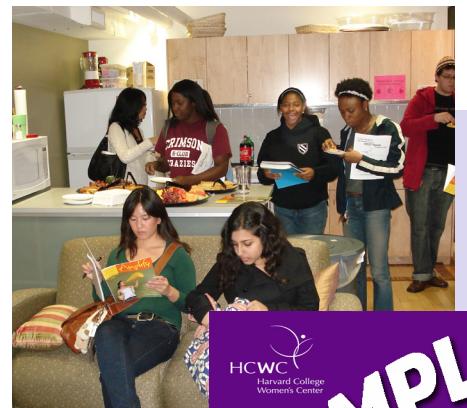
Images of some of the student artwork featured in the fall art exhibit.



STUDENTS REFLECT ON HARVARD EXPERIENCE, *The Harvard Crimson*, 10/29/07

"Andrés Castro Samayoa '10, an intern at the Women's Center whose art is featured in the show said it was 'exciting' to use the theme of the Harvard experience to reflect upon his time here. He combined work from his freshman year with new material, hoping his art would help him figure out how those experiences fit together... 'The show really adds to the dynamic of the space and gives it a fresh feel,' he said."

-MEGAN A. SHUTZER



AMPLIFY Launch Party: Nov. 1st, 2007

AMPLIFY, the Harvard College Women Center's new magazine dedicated to gender issues, made its debut at a launch party in November at the Women's Center. Guests turned out to flip through the special teaser issue featuring articles such as one woman's experiences in beauty pageantry, a spotlight on the successful season of the Radcliffe Rugby team, and a discussion of lesbian identity.

After presenting the vision behind the magazine, AMPLIFY founder and editor, Natasha Alford '08, encouraged guests and contributors to comment on pieces they found thought-provoking. Writers like Anesha Grant '08 expressed an appreciation for a safe and fresh forum to discuss issues related to gender that they'd never considered before. The event concluded with a recognition ceremony for AMPLIFY's editors and contributors.

Alum-ing! Dinner with Rebecca Onie '97-98, HLS '03: Nov. 6th, 2007



Rebecca Onie, founder and executive director of Project HEALTH, came to speak at the Women's Center as part of the "Alum-ing" dinner series in which prominent alumnae return to campus to share their experiences and advice with current undergraduates.

Onie spoke with passion about her work founding Project HEALTH, a non-profit organization that works to break the link between poverty and poor health through public health interventions. Many of the students in attendance at the dinner expressed interest in founding their own non-profits, and Onie encouraged them to think carefully about their mission and whether there were already existing organizations pursuing it effectively – and if not, to work towards

their goals aggressively. She offered encouragement to seniors who were unsure about their career plans and advised them to explore their interests before committing to a graduate program. Onie brought candor, good humor, and thoughtful insight to the conversation and created a comfortable environment in which students could discuss their interests and get advice.



Women Rock! Pub Night: Nov. 9th, 2007

On November 9th, the Harvard College Women's Center hosted "Women Rock!", a celebration of women in rock music, at the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub. Festooned with decorations and filled with people, the pub was graced by three woman-fronted student rock groups: After Hours, Catherine Tuttle '10, and the Sinister Turns. After Hours, a funk band fronted by singer Juli Min '09, started the evening. Cat Tuttle followed, with her lively and accomplished acoustic rock, and the Sinister Turns topped off the show with a set of indie rock numbers ranging from bubblegum-pop to headbanging epic, all written by frontwoman Susan Putnins, '08.

In addition to fabulous live music, there were free appetizers available at the beginning of the event, and attendees answered trivia questions about women in rock for prizes. The event was inspired by the relative dearth of women in rock and roll (and popular music in general). By promoting feminist and woman-fronted musical groups and honoring great women rock performers from Aretha Franklin (the first woman to be inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame) to Ani DiFranco (founder of Righteous Babe Records), the event was designed to build excitement about women in rock and inspire women to pick up their guitars and drumsticks. It was also a relaxed and enjoyable event where attendees socialized, laughed, and danced late into the night.

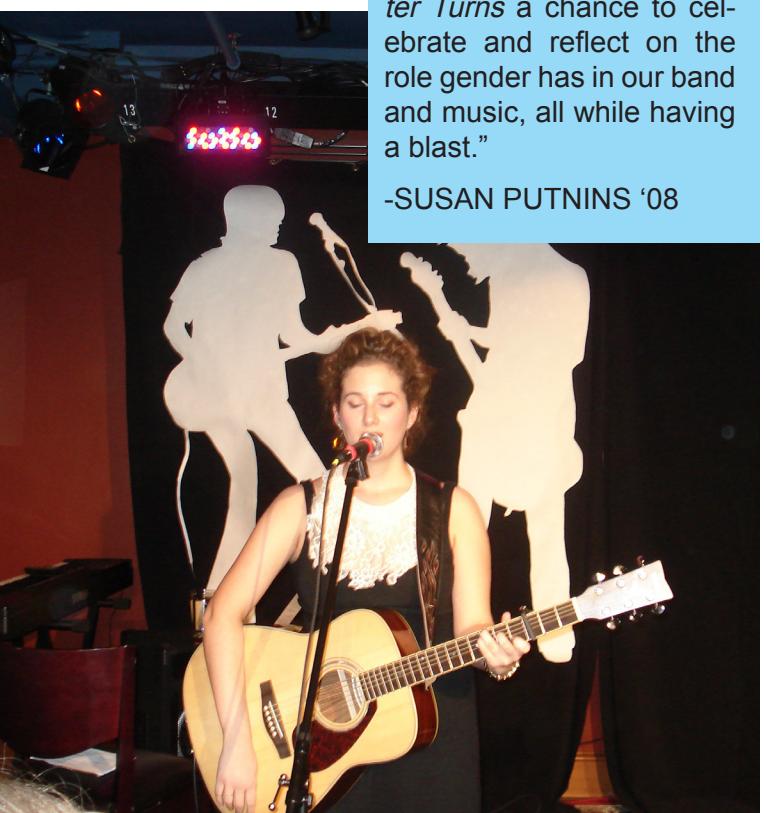
FEMALE ARTISTS ROCK QUEEN'S HEAD, *The Harvard Crimson*, 11/13/07

"Saturday night's performers commented on the difficulty of forging a place in Harvard's music scene as a woman. 'I was surprised at how many times women were absent from the musical social events. Women tend to be rather isolated, so it's nice to see them interacting here,' said Catherine Tuttle '10."

-ANNA POLONYI



After Hours takes the stage.

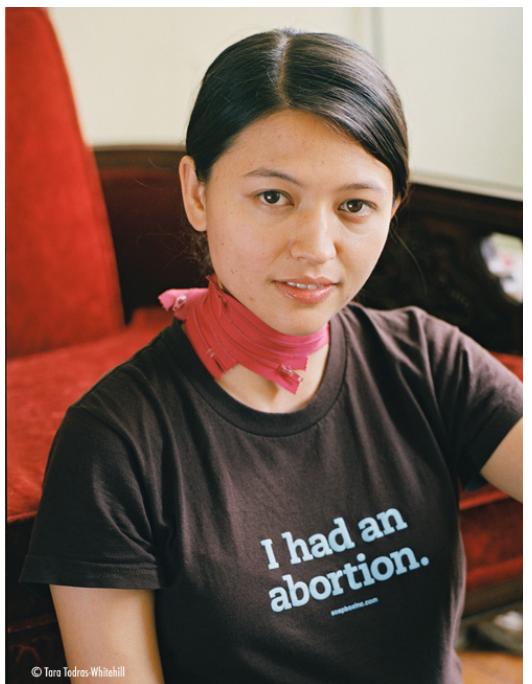


Singer and songwriter Catherine Tuttle.

"It's been well established that women can rock, but it's not often celebrated. 'Women Rock! Pub Night' gave our band *The Sinister Turns* a chance to celebrate and reflect on the role gender has in our band and music, all while having a blast."

-SUSAN PUTNINS '08

I Had an Abortion Film: Nov. 15th, 2007



Courtesy of Women Make Movies, www.wmm.com

The Women's Center hosted a screening of Jennifer Baumgardner and Gillian Aldrich's *Speak Out: I Had an Abortion*. Spanning seven decades, the film features 10 women, including Gloria Steinem, who share their personal experiences in an effort to combat the stigma associated with speaking about abortion. Each woman voices unique personal perspectives in an effort to personalize the debate about abortion. After screening the film, participants discussed the contents of the film as well as the historical, social, economic, and gender issues it raised. Everyone enjoyed the pizza dinner as well as the conversation, which benefited from the political and ideological diversity of the attendees.

"The event was a thought-provoking discussion on a subject that remains polarized and shunned from primetime. It is also refreshing, as a man and president of Harvard Right to Life, that the Women's Center is open to views quite contrary to the tenets of Gloria Steinem, NARAL, et al."

-JEFFREY KWONG '09



"Out of the Gutter": Contemporary Graphic Novels by Women: Nov. 29th, 2007

"Out of the Gutter" was the title of a lecture given at the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe by Hillary Chute, an accomplished young scholar who conducts research on the emergence of graphic novels as a literary art form. "Out of the Gutter" focused on two recent works which have gained extraordinary critical and popular success: Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*.

Chute began the presentation with a brief history of the evolution of comics and graphic novels, as well as the gender politics at play in their rise in popularity. She spoke about the history of subversive, "underground" comics and focused on the genre of "graphic memoirs," or works which blend fiction and memoir in a graphic novel format. Both *Fun Home* and *Persepolis* fall into this category, as does Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, one of the most popular and critically acclaimed graphic novels of all time.

While the comic-book genre is primarily pro-

duced by and aimed towards a male demographic, graphic novels seem to be another matter (as the successes of *Fun Home* and *Persepolis* suggest). In "Out of the Gutter," Chute spoke not only about the social dynamics in play in the production and publishing of these works, but also about the nature of the autobiographical graphic novel—the blending of words and images, she believes, is uniquely suited to a memoir or "confessional" work. It also brings issues of gender, objectification, and emotion to the forefront in a way that few genres can.

Chute's work is innovative and peers deep into the heart of an oft-unstudied medium. "Out of the Gutter" was informative enough to make the subject matter accessible to the layperson, and thoughtful enough that scholars of art, literature, comic books, and gender all had something to learn from it. This event was cosponsored with the Schlesinger Library and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.



A student examines a pair of boots at the clothing swap.



The Fall Naked Ladies Brunch: Dec. 2nd, 2007



HCWC interns Bianca Caban '09 and Natasha Alford '08 help serve home-cooked breakfast treats to the brunch-goers.



Attendees browse through piles of gently-used sweaters.

The "Naked Ladies Brunch" clothing swap has become a Women's Center biannual tradition and a favorite event for many students. Students are invited to bring in their gently-used clothing and accessories to swap, and all leftover items are donated to charity. The Harvard Vestis Council, Harvard's undergraduate fashion organization, assisted with organizing the mountains of donated clothing and offered wardrobe consultations for undecided swappers.

The Naked Ladies Brunch always proves to be a fun combination of home-made brunch (including HCWC staff member Bridget Duffy's signature crème brûlée French toast), music, clothing, and socializing. This fall, the Women's Center chose to donate the proceeds and leftover clothing and accessories from the Naked Ladies Brunch to the Women's Lunch Place, a Boston non-profit that provides food, day-time shelter, and career counseling for homeless women.



Women's Community Fair: Dec. 5th, 2007

The second annual Women's Community Fair, organized by the Women's Center in collaboration with the Seneca, Inc., brought together 28 student groups who sought to reach out to Harvard undergraduate women and raise awareness about their organizations.

The student groups present at the fair ranged from ethnic to social to public service – there were representatives from pre-professional groups like Women in Business and arts organizations like the Radcliffe Choral Society. The fair took place in the Lowell Dining Hall where tables were set up for each group to give out information and answer questions. The Seneca raffled off gift certificates from popular stores and restaurants in Harvard Square throughout the event. Because of the social nature of the fair, many of the event-goers and student group representatives were able to casually connect with new classmates and learn about the range of extracurricular opportunities available.

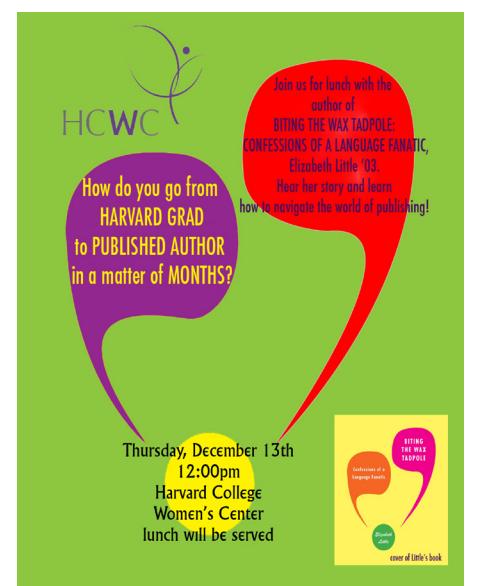


Students from Freeze College Magazine offer brochures to interested peers.

"The second annual Women's Community Fair is a testament to the student body's increasing enthusiasm for women's groups, women's issues, and the building of a close-knit community for women here at Harvard. It warms my heart to think that many freshmen are able to attend the fair in the fall and be exposed so early on to the promise of a supportive community and so many extracurricular opportunities. I hope that the Women's Center will continue with this and other initiatives to tighten the bond between many already solid and powerful groups on campus because together, we can accomplish phenomenal things."

- KRISTINA LIU '08

Elizabeth Little: Dec. 13th, 2007



Elizabeth Little '03 drew a crowd of undergraduates to the Women's Center's lounge to hear her speak about her successful foray into the world of publishing. She told the group of prospective writers about her experience pitching her idea for *Bite the Wax Tadpole: Confessions of a Language Fanatic* and writing and marketing the book. Little shared tips about how to enter the competitive publishing industry and signed copies of her book after the talk. This event was cosponsored with the Office of Career Services.



Spring 2008 Events

For the Bible Tells Me So Film: Feb. 12th, 2008



Panelists Reverend Irene Monroe, Professor Paula Caplan, Jacob Reitan, and Bishop Reverend Gene Robinson commented after the film.

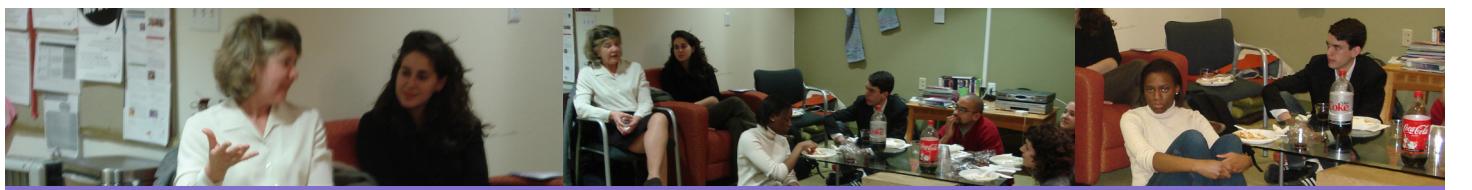


The audience had the opportunity to ask the panel questions after the screening.

The Women's Center's first event of the second semester featured a screening of Daniel Karslake's documentary *For the Bible Tells Me So*. This film follows five Christian families on their journey to reconciling their faith with the realization of having a gay child or family member. Through the perspectives of religious scholars, political activists, and families, this film exposes and challenges the misconception that the Bible condemns homosexuality.

After the film, HCWC intern Kameron Collins '09 introduced the distinguished panel of speakers: Bishop Reverend Gene Robinson, Professor Paula Caplan, Reverend Irene Monroe, and Harvard Divinity School student Jacob Reitan. These panelists had all been featured in Karslake's film, and they provided insight into the documentary and the issues of how religious institutions respond to homosexuality. Reverend Robinson spoke about the challenges and opportunities of being the first openly gay Bishop, while Reitan described the exhilaration of getting involved in LGBT political activism through his creation of the Soulforce Equality Ride - a tour designed to bring dialogue about queer issues to universities.

This event was cosponsored with the Committee on Degrees in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard BGLTSA, Women's Studies in Religion at the Harvard Divinity School, the LGBT Political Coalition, and Cornerstone (LGBT-friendly Catholic Group).



Will the Real Professor Hochschild Please Stand Up? Feb. 20th, 2008

This dinner discussion was the first in the Women's Center's series of "Real Professor" events designed to promote meaningful and informal dialogue between students and faculty members. Professor Hochschild graciously answered personal and professional questions over dinner in the Women's Center to give students a glimpse into the "real" Professor Hochschild.

She shared enlightening stories about graduate school, raising her children, her relationship with her husband, and her favorite things to do and think about. This candid window into the life of an accomplished professor inspired the students who attended and offered a role model of a strong woman successfully charting her own course in academia.



Professor Hochschild chats with a group of students in the Women's Center lounge.



Intern Shauna Shames GSAS introduced Professor Hochschild through personal details rather than academic accomplishments.

"Listening to Professor Hochschild speak candidly about her interesting life journey gave me great perspective and hope as I embark on my journey as a student and as a woman. Listening to such an accomplished professor reveal such relatable life experiences encouraged me to embrace my journey and pursue my passions with vigor, in hope that one day, I too can make a name for myself."

- LINDSEY ROSS '11

"The talk was casual, intimate, honest, and insightful. Afterwards, I felt that everybody in the room had gained a deeper understanding of her as a person, as well as a better appreciation for how much a single individual can do in the course of a lifetime."

- JOYCE ZHANG '09



Program Administrator Sandra Ullman '07 and Curator Andrés Castro Samayoa '10.



Visitors examine the artwork.

"More Than Skin Deep" Art Exhibit Opening: Feb. 29th, 2008

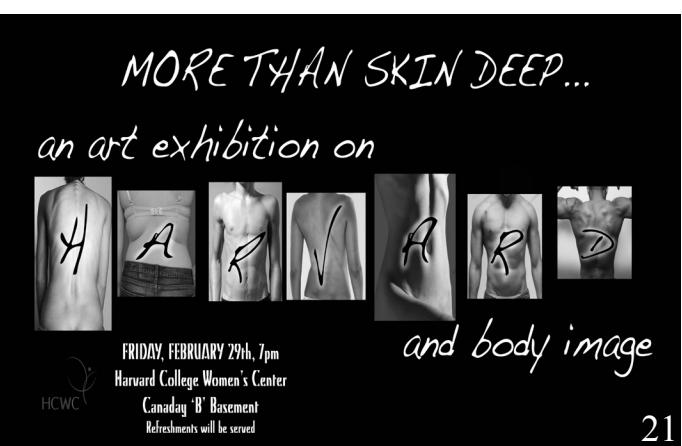
The Women's Center's spring art exhibit "More Than Skin Deep", curated by intern Andrés Castro Samayoa '10, explored the topic of Harvard body image through student art. The show featured paintings, mixed media compositions, and silk screens that addressed some facet of how students think about body image on campus. The theme for the art exhibit generated much enthusiasm among student artists, and the Women's Center was delighted to receive submissions from an unprecedented number of artists.

Jenna Mellor '08 submitted a six-foot tall photograph of a vulva with a manifesto written around the border; because of its striking size and graphic nature, this piece served as the center of much conversation and debate. Coale Tylander '10 created interactive, movable wooden puzzle pieces that featured a silk screen design. Other pieces ranged from a multimedia series about the personal experience of abortion to a recycled collage of publicity materials created by ECHO, the Eating Concerns Hotline and Outreach organization.

The art opening brought together many different communities who turned out to enjoy the art and chat with the artists.



Artist Julia Havard '11 poses in front of her submission.

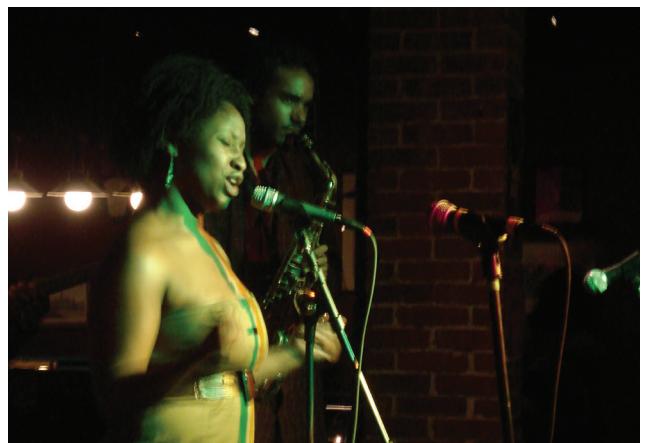




Sing it, Sister! Celebration of Black Women in Music Pub Night: March 8th, 2008



ABOVE: Kuumba sisters perform a capella. BELOW: Kristen Jones '08 delivers a soulful rendition of Aretha Franklin's "Respect."



"It was beautiful to see my fellow classmates bring their talents... some planned before, some even impromptu. And I will always remember seeing so many different faces, in addition to those that belonged to blacks females, that were appreciating the environment and the music, just like I was. It was truly inspiring to see that we, as a Harvard community, really could come together and jam."

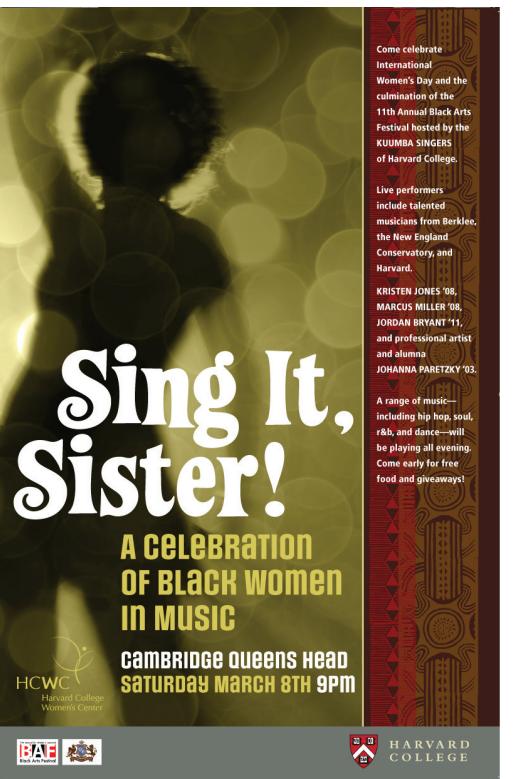
- MICHELLE OBOITE '08

"Sing It, Sister" was a wonderful event to celebrate black women and their creativity. I hope that the Women's Center brings the event back next year since it was such an amazing showcase of talent and musical ability."

- ELIZABETH EZE '11

On International Women's Day, the Harvard College Women's Center collaborated with the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College to celebrate the culmination of the 11th Annual Black Arts Festival. Held at the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub, "Sing it, Sister!" set the stage for an evening of lively music featuring upcoming artists from Harvard College, the Berklee College of Music, the New England Conservatory, and New York City. The Women's Center interns put fact sheets about prominent black women in music history on the pub tables.

The evening began with an introduction by intern Chiaztam Ekekezie '08, who lead the Sisters of Kuumba a capella ensemble. Ekekezie remarked on the need to recognize and celebrate black women's resilience and success in the music industry. After the a capella performance, undergraduates Kristen Jones '08, Marcus Miller '08, and Jordan Bryant '11 took the stage and played a lively set of hip hop, soul, R&B, and dance. The event culminated with a performance by professional recording artist and alumna Johanna Paretzky '03. Music continued long after the scheduled performances ended, as student musicians took to the stage and jammed for the enthusiastic crowd.



Women's Week: 3/11/08- 3/14/08

Women's Week 2008



Women's Week is a week of events celebrating women's achievements, exploring women's issues, and encouraging dialogue about the role of gender at Harvard and beyond. Women's Week is organized by the Women's Center and the Seneca, Inc., an undergraduate group that works to increase opportunities for women at Harvard.

Women's Week 2008 featured a wide array of events sponsored by a diverse selection of student groups. The events included: a panel on alternative career options presented by Women in Business, a film screening on female genital mutilation presented by the Harvard College Advocates for Human Rights, a panel on empowering women in South Asia presented by the South Asian Women's Collec-

tive and Students Taking on Poverty, a salary negotiation workshop presented by the Women's Center (see below), a seminar on women's nutrition presented by the Seneca, an informal talk by Professor Robin Bernstein presented by the Student Organization Center at Hilles, a panel and fair about women's mental health across difference presented by the Black Men's Forum, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and the Mental Health Advocacy and Awareness Group, a dinner discussion on feminist relationships presented by the Radcliffe Union of Students, a panel talk on abortion in Hollywood films presented by Students for Choice, an awards dinner honoring a prominent female scientist presented by Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe, and a celebration brunch presented by the Association of Black Harvard Women and the Women's Cabinet.

Women's Week creates opportunities for a fresh approach to women's issues by encouraging groups to collaborate and offering financial and logistical support to students to produce events.



Start Smart Workshop: March 11th, 2008

This interactive workshop on salary benchmarking and wage negotiation took place over dinner at the Faculty Club as part of Women's Week 2008. Leading the workshop was Evelyn F. Murphy, author of *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What To Do About It*. Dr. Murphy is a PhD economist, former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts, and president of The Wage Project, an organization that works to eliminate discrimination against women in the workplace. This workshop was designed for juniors, seniors, and graduate students to educate them about the gender wage gap and prepare them to fight it through benchmarking and negotiating to ensure they receive a fair salary.



"The 'Start Smart Workshop' was illuminating and empowering. The workshop not only equipped me with a fundamental approach to salary negotiation, it also provided a framework to combat gender bias in the workplace that cast salary as an equalizer. Ms. Murphy's tools are relevant for all women, regardless of age or position in the workforce."

- JOANNA MILLER '08

Former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts Evelyn Murphy explains the basics of salary negotiation to a group of Harvard women.



11th Women's Leadership Awards: April 3rd, 2008



From left: honorees Elizabeth Grosso '08, Stephanie Wilson '88, Katherine Beck '08, and Meghan Pasricha '08.

The Women's Center hosted the 11th annual Women's Leadership Awards dinner at the Charles Hotel. The Women's Leadership Award is given to a senior whose leadership has had a meaningful impact on the college and who has set an example that could inspire women to assume leadership roles. This year's award recipient was Katherine Beck '08, a student whose passion for public service at Harvard and beyond distinguished her as a true model for student leadership. Honorable mentions were awarded to Elizabeth Grosso '08 and Meghan Pasricha '08.

The ceremony also recognized the winner of this year's Women's Professional Award, which goes to an alumna who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in her field. This award was given to NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson '88. For more information about this award, please see page 38.



LEFT: Students celebrate at the reception. From left: Bianca Caban '09, Tiffany Niver '08, Sloan Strike '09, Aditi Mallick '08, and Kameron Collins '09. CENTER: Dean Evelyn M. Hammonds and WLA professional award winner Stephanie Wilson '88. RIGHT: Natasha Alford '08 speaks at the ceremony.

Ben Barres Lecture: March 17th, 2008



Ben Barres speaks about women in science in Boylston Hall.

Stanford Professor of Neurobiology Ben Barres delivered a lecture entitled "Some Reflections on the Dearth of Women in Science" to a large crowd in Fong Auditorium. Professor Barres gave a compelling presentation about the gender-based bias in academia and offered evidence that there are no innate differences in women and men's competence in science. As a transgender person who conducted science research as a woman and later as a man, Professor Barres shared his fascinating personal perspective on how men and women in science are treated differently. This talk was cosponsored with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, the Committee on Degrees in Women, Gender and Sexuality, the Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering, the Women's Network at Harvard, and the Postdoctoral Affairs Office.



Alum-ing! Dinner with Katya Fels Smyth '93: April 9th, 2008

Katya Fels Smyth joined us for the spring installment of the "Alum-ing" dinner series. Smyth spoke about her work founding On the Rise, a non-profit organization that offers day-time services including counseling and career assistance for homeless women in Cambridge. She currently works as the principal and founder of the Full Frame Initiative, a campaign to improve the nation's approach to aiding marginalized populations.

Over dinner in the Women's Center lounge, Smyth spoke with students about her own path to public service work and finding her passion as an undergraduate through working at the Harvard square homeless shelter at the United Lutheran Church. She offered a window into the grant-writing and fund-raising efforts necessary to sustain a non-profit. She encouraged students to trust their instincts and their skills and to pursue their goals when they graduate without worrying if they are too young or lack a professional degree. Students stayed late into the evening to converse with Smyth, who gave thoughtful answers to their questions about non-profits, career choices, and public service.

Intergenerational Feminist Panel: April 18th, 2008

On Friday, April 18, feminists from four generations gathered together to begin a conversation with students, faculty, and community members about the state of feminism today. "WomenGirlsLadies" is a panel of intergenerational feminists Courtney E. Martin, Deborah Siegel, Kristal Brent Zook, and Gloria Feldt, who range in age from 27 to 65. These women, influential feminist authors, teachers, bloggers, and activists, have traveled to many campuses to start what they see as a crucial conversation about the evolution and the future of feminism. They were brought to Harvard by the Harvard College Women's Center, in conjunction with the Committee on Degrees in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and the Radcliffe Union of Students.

The panelists opened the event by explaining their individual paths to becoming feminists. Gloria Feldt, whose feminism began when she was a teen mother and wife in rural Texas in

continued on the next page...



Visiting speakers (from left) Deborah Siegel, Gloria Feldt, Kristal Brent Zook, and Courtney Martin share their visions of feminism.



FOUR FEMINISTS TACKLE HARVARD, *The Harvard Crimson*, 4/20/07

"According to 65-year-old speaker and author Feldt, it is not enough to know what is wrong—feminists need to actively battle injustice. 'Whatever you do, whatever choice you make, now is the time for women to be involved,' Feldt said.

Feminism is about 'seeing ourselves in the movement' and challenging norms established for feminists—whether by wearing fishnet stockings or playing around with sexual norms, said Martin, a 27-year-old author and filmmaker. 'I think feminism should be joyful, playful, and me having the ability to choose these things,' she said."

-ESTHER YI



Women's Center intern Annemarie Munn '08 introduced each of the panelists.

"The Women's Center's Intergenerational Panel was a fantastic convergence of feminist thinkers, writers, bloggers, etc. The diversity of viewpoints about feminism allowed for a rich and fertile discussion, more concerned with facing the myriad questions that surround fem- and other "isms" than presenting the audience with hammered-out answers."

- THOMAS DICHTER '08

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the 1970s, became a feminist through reflections on the freedom women did not, at the time, have to control their own bodies, financial matters, and many other aspects of their lives. She went on to become the head of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America for a number of years, and, since retiring in 2005, has written several books on leadership and reproductive rights.

All the panelists focused on the need for feminists of all ages to find the issues that "tick them off," incite their anger and excitement. They also talked about the inclusiveness of the word "feminist": Kristal Brent Zook, whose work focuses on the intersections of race, gender, and power, addressed the fact that many women of color, including her own mother and grandmother, do not call themselves "feminist," regardless of how feminist their lives or actions might be. Courtney E. Martin, the youngest member of the panel, also spoke about the reluctance of young women to identify themselves with their "mothers' feminism," which can appear outmoded or blind. All the panelists agreed that whether or not one takes on the label "feminist" is less important than one's actions.

After introducing their own takes on feminism, the panelists spent an hour responding to questions and comments from the audience. Having spoken extensively about the internet's role in feminist activism today and about the increasingly wide scope of feminist issues, the panelists received many questions on these two topics. Audience members seemed especially concerned with finding a common ground for feminism across differences in race, age, socio-economic class, and education level. Both Deborah Siegel and Courtney E. Martin, who contribute to the popular feminist blog "Feministing" (www.feministing.com), spoke eloquently about the drawbacks and the enormous promise and power that the "blogosphere" lends to grass-roots organizing, and lauded the fact that widespread access to the internet has "democratized" media—and feminism—in this country.

-ANNEMARIE MUNN '08



Of Such Times, The Modern Indian Woman Film: April 30th, 2008



Director Vandana Kohli addresses the audience after the film screening

The Women's Center, along with the South Asian Women's Collective, organized a screening of *Of Such Times: The Modern Indian Woman*, a documentary film directed by Vandana Kohli. The screening took place in the Thompson Room of the Barker Center. The film features interviews from graduates of different generations from one of India's most prestigious women's colleges. The women in the film reflect on their careers, relationships, and politics, and together they offer a complex series of answers to the question "what is the modern Indian woman?"

Director Vandana Kohli joined us from New Dehli in order to speak at the screening. Ms. Kohli engaged the audience on issues ranging from the film-making process to domestic violence to the status of women in India.

Rosa Film: April 22nd, 2008

One of the closing events for Women's Center's Spring 2008 calendar was the screening of a documentary made by Salvadoran students entitled: "Rosa: Life story of a Transsexual Woman."

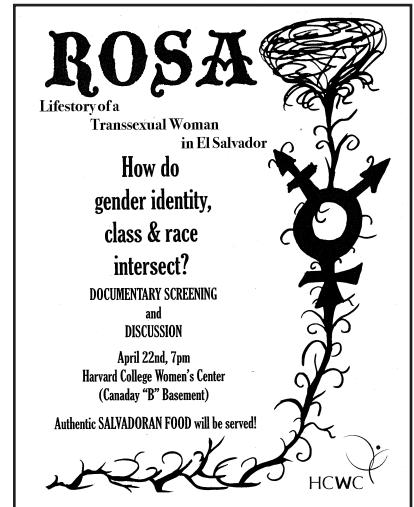
The film tells the story of Rosa Marcela, a transsexual woman in El Salvador. Told through a series of interviews, the documentary weaves a compelling narrative of Rosa's life and her death from AIDS that occurred during the shooting of the film. Among the interviewees, Rosa's closest friend recalls

anecdotes of the struggles and successes that Rosa experienced during her life as a former sex worker and club performer. While Rosa's coworkers offer an intimate portrait of the hardships faced by transgender and cross-dressing communities in El Salvadorean society, her family reveals conflicting perspectives from acceptance to discomfort with her gender identity.

The event, held at the lounge of the Women's Center, was complemented with authentic Salvadoran food. It was followed by a discussion led by interns Andres Castro Samayoa '10 and Katie Frett GSE '08, focusing on the documentary's depiction of the intersections of class, race, and gender identity.



Screen shot from Rosa.



Spring Naked Ladies Brunch: May 4th, 2008



Jenna Mellor '08 looks through the sweaters.

The spring Naked Ladies Brunch featured a record-breaking amount of gently-used clothing donations. Seniors preparing to move out brought suitcases of clothing over to the Women's Center.

The Women's Center donated the bags of leftover items to Big Brothers Big Sisters, the largest youth mentoring organization in America. The Naked Ladies Brunch is a favorite event of many students and Women's Center interns because it offers the opportunity to reuse clothing, relax with friends, and donate to a good cause.



Intern Susan Yao '08 sorts the donations.



Life Skills Series: 5/5-5/8/08



Students participate in the Women's Center's life skills series of cooking workshops.

As students get ready to leave for the summer, and graduates get ready to leave for the "real world," the Women's Center held a three-workshop cooking series to help prepare them for living on their own. Intern Susan Yao '09 led a workshop on how to make mochi and bubble tea, staff member Bridget Duffy demonstrated how to prepare a three-course meal of salad, lasagna, and cookies, and Eliana Muriello '10 showed students how to make a number of mini-desserts including fruit tarts. Each workshop provided an interactive opportunity for 10-15 people to learn how to cook. Most enjoyable for participants was getting to eat what they made!



End of the Year Party: May 8th, 2008

The Women's Center's second year wrapped up with a party to celebrate the year and honor the class of 2008. For most of the party, people were relaxing, playing board games, and enjoying an assortment of desserts and each other's company. Guests could also contribute to the Women's Center scrapbook by writing comments about the events that took place during the year, while the inaugural year scrapbook was on display for the first time.

Intern Bianca Caban '09 offered a toast celebrating the second year of the Women's Center and raffled off an iPod shuffle. Students gathered to hear the announcement of the winner of the first annual Women's Center student writing prize. Intern Natasha Alford '08 read Gena Haugen's prize-winning essay to the group (see below for an excerpt).

The party was also an opportunity for the newly-hired 2008-2009 interns to come to the Women's Center and celebrate. The new interns for next year are: Rachel Gholston '11, Gena Haugen '09, Kelsey LeBuffe '10, Matthews Mmopi '11, Eva Rosenberg '10, and Ivy Wu '09.

EXCERPT FROM WINNING ESSAY:

Does Harvard care about gender? It should. It knows it should. Maybe it doesn't. The problem with gauging Harvard's earnest feelings about gender is that we as students are good at giving the textbook answer. We know the right things to say in response papers and class discussions. Acknowledgment of the multifaceted nature of our student body, however, is not affirmation. If we don't believe in what we keep repeating back to our professors, it's time to re-focus our collective message. When it comes to gender at Harvard, we need to do more than make the grade.

-GENA HAUGEN '09



TOP: Natasha Alford reads Gena Haugen's prize-winning essay.

MIDDLE: Bianca Caban gives a toast to the year.

BOTTOM: Next year's interns celebrate at the party.



HCWC Programs

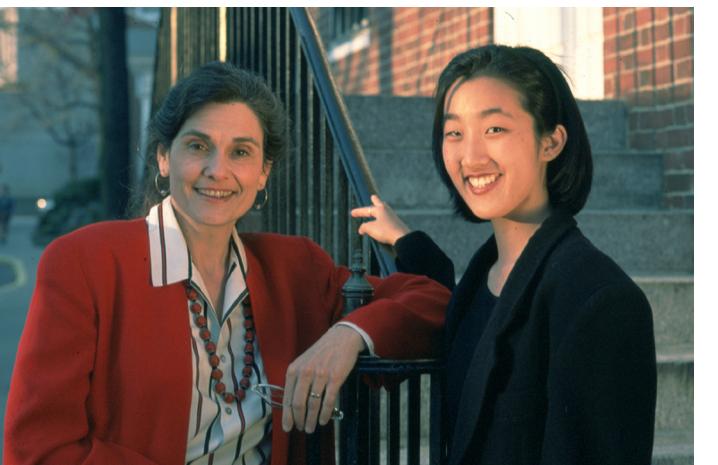
The Radcliffe Mentor Program

A wise sage once said "a mentor is someone whose hindsight can be your foresight." This year, 154 Harvard students learned how true that statement is by participating in the Radcliffe Mentor Program. Now in its 23rd year, the Radcliffe Mentor Program (RMP) links undergraduates with Radcliffe and Harvard alumnae, providing students with opportunities for career exploration, life/work balance insight, and intergenerational exchange. The Women's Center proudly became the home of the program in 2006, carrying on a tradition started to ensure that current students would have access to a network of successful and committed alumnae after Radcliffe and Harvard finally merged in 1999.

This year's activities commenced with the annual Kick-off Brunch held in November at the Student Organization Center in the penthouse level at Hilles. After excitedly finding each other, newly matched mentor/mentee pairs spent time at the luncheon getting acquainted and making plans for their year together. In January, guest speaker Judge Sydney Hanlon, who oversees the family court in Dorchester and is a globally-recognized expert on domestic violence intervention, shared her experiences turning a passion for violence prevention into a career where she truly makes a difference, emphasizing the importance of tapping into the gift of time and talent offered by role models and allies along the way. In February, a spectacular panel of alumnae who have made their mark in diverse careers talked about how they've managed to do that while also balancing family and personal life concerns. To end the year, a wine and dessert reception to honor the contributions of mentors took place on June 17th at Finale. An advisory committee of ten terrific alumnae, chaired by Lynne Yerby '74, works closely with HCWC director

Susan Marine to recruit and match participants, to plan the year's events, and to keep in touch with pairs as the year progresses.

One obvious strength of the RMP is the way that mentor/mentee pairs are encouraged to develop a rhythm and focus that works for them and their needs. Some pairs focus on career-oriented discussions, visits to the mentor's workplace, and resume review. Some enjoy connections of a more social nature, meeting for coffee or dinner, visiting museums, attending sports events on campus, or spending time with the mentor's children. Small groups of mentors and students with shared interests in a particular field also meet to share information and expand their networks even further. Ultimately, the rewards of these efforts come in the form of the solid intersections they forge between Harvard alums and students of different generations, building a network of women committed to reciprocal learning, growth, and connection.



Beatrice Rogers '68 and her undergraduate mentee Audrey.

The Women's Cabinet

The Women's Cabinet is a group of leaders of women's and gender student groups that convenes at the Women's Center to discuss issues of interest to Harvard women and share information about their projects and events. Along with the Women's Center and the Seneca, the Women's Cabinet is a coordinating force behind Women's Week (see page 26). Members of the Women's Cabinet review grant applications for the Ann Radcliffe Trust and decide how to allocate those funds.



The Women's Cabinet offers student leaders the opportunity to engage with women's issues and collaborative event planning.

The active members of the Women's Cabinet in 2007-2008 were: the Association of Black Harvard Women, the BGLT-SA, Femsex, the Radcliffe Union of Students, Harvard Right to Life, the Radcliffe Choral Society, Strong Women Strong Girls, Students for Choice, Women in Business, and the Women's Leadership Project.

If you are a member of a women's organization or any student group that addresses issues of gender, please email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu for more information about joining the Women's Cabinet.

Ann Radcliffe Trust Grants

The Ann Radcliffe Trust 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 Ann Radcliffe Trust (ART) addresses issues of importance to Harvard women.

The ART is primarily funded by the Houghton Endowment, which was established by a gift from Maisie K. Houghton '62 and James R. Houghton '58. The ART grant applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Women's Cabinet. This group awards grants to student organizations for their projects and events which support the visibility of women's issues and women's visibility within Harvard College.

ART grants are administered on a quarterly basis through the Common Grant system. For deadline and application information, please visit our website at: <http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/annradtrust.html>.



ART grants are a central source of funding for many student organizations seeking to organize conferences and events pertaining to women's issues.

AMPLIFY Magazine

AMPLIFY is a student-run magazine founded by the Harvard College Women's Center in the fall of 2007 with the purpose of providing a fresh and alternative forum to address issues related to women and gender.

The founding of AMPLIFY was premised on a belief that too often conversations about women's and gender issues were taking place behind closed doors or solely amongst communities already focused on these topics. Too often there were great events and important happenings related to gender at Harvard and beyond that went undigested by the general Harvard community. There was a need to engage a wider campus audience, as well as to "amplify" diverse perspectives on gender.

Each semester AMPLIFY has a submission period where editors accept articles from students for publication. AMPLIFY's content is comprised of a balance between these contributors' work and pieces written by AMPLIFY's own student editorial staff. With three sections showcasing Art, News, and Feature stories of interest, AMPLIFY encourages creativity in conceptualizing what constitutes "gender" issues and how these issues should be addressed.

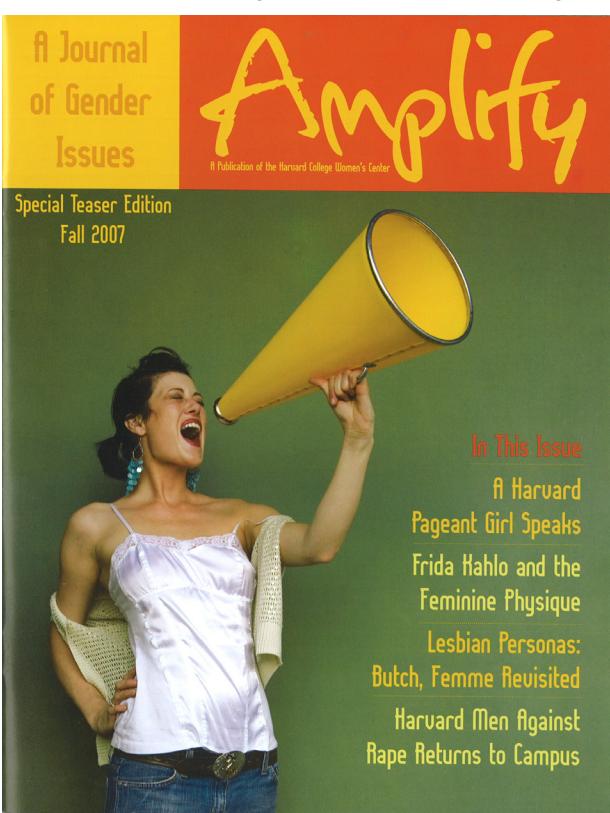
Most importantly, AMPLIFY seeks to put students first, with an emphasis on student expression rather than presenting pre-packaged positions or beliefs. While affiliated and supported by the Harvard College Women's Center, AMPLIFY seeks to empower students by providing yet another resource to address the issues they find most important.

"I loved the freedom of picking a topic and following it through to completion as a contributor to AMPLIFY this year. The interests and concerns of the editors and contributors shaped the publication, which covered a wide range of exciting issues. I see AMPLIFY'S mission as focusing attention on questions of gender and sexuality that often go under-discussed at Harvard and shaking up the gender-blind status quo for campus publications."

-EVA ROSENBERG '10



ABOVE: Founder and editor-in-chief of AMPLIFY Natasha Alford '08 addresses the group gathered to celebrate the launch of the first issue of AMPLIFY. BELOW: Cover image from the first issue of the magazine.



Science Mentors Program

Creating intentional opportunities for women from different walks of Harvard life to come together in meaningful ways is a hallmark of the Women's Center's work. One effort to bring women in science at Harvard together is through the Science Mentors Program. Originally funded by an endowment from alumna Jennifer Stone '80, this program seeks to foster a sense of community for women studying science, math, and engineering at Harvard. The program links PhD students in these fields with undergraduate women who are interested in pursuing them in order to create a network for women scientists. By facilitating relationships between graduate women and undergraduate women, the program seeks to encourage women to persist in these fields and to more effectively manage and mediate the challenges inherent in being a woman scientist. Additionally, the program supports both graduate women and undergraduates in connections with women faculty for additional mentoring and role modeling.

Female graduate students in science or engineering apply to be mentors to undergraduate women concentrating in science, math, or engineering in October.

Participants attended the evening launch and mixer event held in Dudley House in November and met regularly one-on-one or in a small group to attend lectures, visit the graduate students' lab, or enjoy a meal or other social event together. This year, program intern Breda Zimkus, a PhD student in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, coordinated a panel discussion luncheon at the faculty club in March, featuring four Harvard alumnae who have pursued careers in both academic science and corporate realms, enabling students to get a glimpse of the breadth of their options for a career in science. A drop-in study break held at the Women's Center in May featured chair massage and ice cream sundaes intended to alleviate the stress of studying for finals and allow mentors and mentees an additional opportunity to meet and connect.

In 2007-08, 51 students were matched mentors. In the words of one mentee, "I've really enjoyed meeting with my mentor and getting to know her. It was exactly what I was looking for, and she has truly helped me figure out a lot of my science plans here at Harvard as well as afterward."



Mentor and mentee Alice Chen and Grace Kim '09.



Science Mentors Program intern Breda Zimkus.

11th Annual Women's Leadership Awards

Recognizing and celebrating women's leadership at Harvard, particularly the leadership demonstrated by former and current students, continues to be a priority for us at the Women's Center. In that spirit, the eleventh annual Women's Leadership Awards dinner and ceremony took place on April 3rd, 2008, 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. This year's recipient of the Women's Professional Achievement Award was Stephanie D. Wilson '88. Wilson, who earned a B.S. in engineering science from Harvard and a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Texas, was selected by NASA to become an astronaut in 1996. Wilson also previously worked with the Martin Marietta Astronautics Group in Denver and Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA.



2008 award winners Stephanie Wilson '88 and Katherine Beck '08.

As always, the selection process for the student award was quite competitive, as 33 senior women who were nominated completed the application process. This year's Harvard College Women's Leadership Award recipient was Katherine Beck '08. Beck excelled in public service during her four years at Harvard, both in terms of dedication to the campus community and to communities beyond Harvard's gates. She served as a student intern in the Advising Programs Office and was an active student representative on both the curricular review and the presidential search committees. Beck also served as a campus campaign coordinator for Teach for America and interned with community schools in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina to

support their funding and rebuilding. After graduation, Beck will work with the Teach for America program in New Orleans. Kudos were also given in recognition of the achievements of two honorable mentions, Elizabeth M. Grosso '08 and Megan Pasricha '08.

Beck spoke of lessons she learned while attending and serving as a counselor at a youth camp in Michigan and her efforts to be like the 'spark' of a campfire - igniting the passions and natural leadership abilities of others. Wilson spoke of the ways mentors had enabled her to develop both confidence and skills, making it possible to tackle truly extraordinary challenges such as repairing a damaged part of a space shuttle while in orbit. Both women also credited their families for their meaningful support and nurturance to become who they are as leaders.

The Harvard College Women's Leadership Awards are funded through an endowment established with a gift from Harvard alumna Terrie Fried Bloom '75. The annual celebration of the WLA ensures that we at the Women's Center can realize our mission of supporting contributions by women who challenge, motivate, and inspire.



Winners of the Women's Leadership Award since its creation in 1997.

All Harvard faculty, staff, administrators, and students are invited to submit nominations for the WLA in the late fall. Please check the Women's Center's website for more information about how to recognize an outstanding student leader by nominating them for this prestigious award.

Women's Network at Harvard

The Women's Center is committed to creating a community, and this vision was made manifest this year through the spark of a new initiative known as the Women's Network at Harvard. The Network was founded this year in an effort to bring together the many programs, services, and initiatives that exist for women at Harvard University. Representatives from diverse initiatives such as the Women's Studies in Religion program at the Harvard Divinity School, the Schlesinger Library, the office of Faculty Development and Diversity in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Joint Committee on the Status of Women at the Medical and Dental Schools, and the Committee on Degrees in Women, Gender, and

Sexuality convened quarterly to enjoy lunch, become acquainted, discuss issues of shared concern, and bring others up to date on the activities and events of their individual program. Together, the group is beginning to build a sense of unity among these different programs, all of which have at least one goal in common – serving women's needs and amplifying the voices of women at Harvard. Through quarterly meetings, the Network will continue to form alliances and share resources, as well as generate additional interest across the university for attention to women's issues. The Network will continue meeting at the Women's Center in 2008-09 and looks forward to clarifying its mission and goals in the coming year.



The Committee on the Concerns of Women at Harvard (CCW)



OFFICE OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY





Get Involved

Attend an Event

Join our weekly mailing list, check out our online events calendar (<http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/events.html>), or pick up a copy of our quarterly newsletter to find out about the many programs and events that happen at the Women's Center. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Host a Meeting at the Women's Center

We have a lounge, conference room, and full kitchen that can be reserved by any student, student group, or Harvard office (see facing page). Please email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu to check the availability of our space!

Apply to be a Mentor or Mentee

The Radcliffe Mentor Program connects current Harvard undergraduates with alumnae mentors in a wide variety of fields. To apply for a mentor for the 2008-2009 year, please visit our website: <http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/mentor.html>. If you are an alumna interested in becoming a mentor, please email us.

Apply for a Grant

If your student group 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 grant. The Trust grants are administered on a quarterly basis through the Harvard Common Grants system; for an application and deadline information, please visit: <http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/annradtrust.html>.

Join our Mailing List

Receiving our weekly email 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 our weekly email mailing list!

Co-sponsor an Event with Us

If your student group or office is interested in working with the Women's Center on a project, program, or event that addresses women's and gender issues at Harvard, please email us with your idea. We would be happy to meet with you to see if we can support your work.

Join the Volunteer Corps

In September 2008, the Women's Center will launch the HCWC Volunteer Corps. This open group will centralize opportunities for interested students to get involved with the planning and implementation of the Women's Center's events and projects. To join the Volunteer Corps or for more information, please email us!

Nominate a Student for the WLA

Anyone can nominate an outstanding leader in the senior class for the prestigious Women's Leadership Award (see page 34). Nomination details will be available through our mailing list in late fall 2008.

Bring us Your Idea!

Let us know if you want to take action on an issue affecting women on campus. In the past, the Women's Center has assisted with informational campaigns such as the HPV vaccine awareness drive.



Our Space



The Women's Center offers many comfortable spaces for students and student groups. Our lounge (bottom left) has couches, floor pillows, and a plasma television and can accommodate up to 30 students. Our conference room (top right) offers a quieter space for students to study and hold meetings, and students are welcome to check email at our computer stations (top left).

These spaces are normally open to all Harvard students from Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm and Monday to Thursday 6-10pm. During the summer, the Women's Center is not open in the evenings.





HCWC People

Student Interns

The undergraduate and graduate 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. Our interns for the 2007-2008 year were: Natasha Alford, Bianca Caban, Kameron Collins, Chiaztotam Ekekezie, Katie Frett GSE, Nikki Johnson GSD, Ridhi Kashyap, Lisa Miracchi, Annemarie Munn, Tiffany Niver, Shauna Shames GSAS, Katie Smith, and Susan Yao. Next year, we are delighted to be joined by the following new interns: Gena Haugen, Kelsey LeBuffe, Matthews Mmopi, Eva Rosenberg, and Ivy Wu.

If you are interested in applying for a Women's Center internship for the 2009-2010 academic year, please join our mailing list, through which we will announce application details in March 2009.



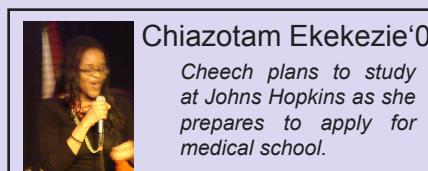
HCWC Interns after a full day of planning for the semester's events.

A Salute to our Graduating Interns



Natasha Alford '08

Natasha is heading to Connecticut to work at a hedge fund.



Chiaztotam Ekekezie '08

Cheech plans to study at Johns Hopkins as she prepares to apply for medical school.



Katie Frett GSE '08

Katie plans to pursue her passion for higher education administration.



Nikki Johnson GSD '08

Nikki will bring her eye for design to Disney's Imagin-eering division in Orlando.



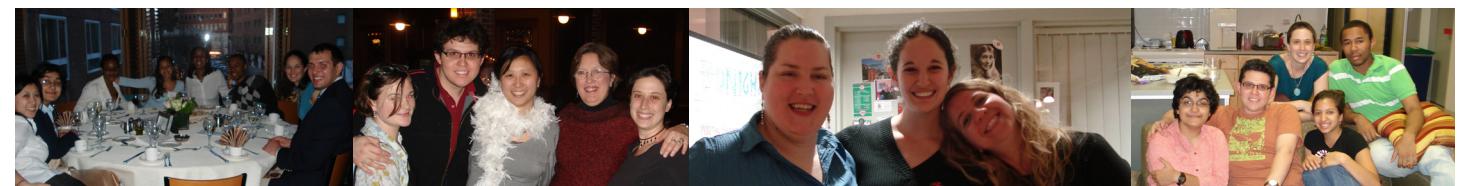
Annemarie Munn '08

Annemarie is going to California to study English on her way to becoming a writer.



Tiffany Niver '08

Tiffany will stay in the Boston area, where she will work as a consultant.



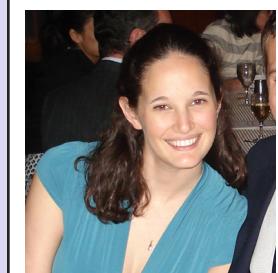
Full-Time Staff



Susan Marine, Director

Susan Marine directs the Harvard College Women's Center, providing oversight to all aspects of the center's work, with a particular focus on the Ann Radcliffe Trust, the Radcliffe Mentor Program, the Science Mentors program, and alumnae relations for the center. Contact Susan at any time at marine@fas.harvard.edu with a comment, concern, or idea for the Women's Center.

Susan hails from the great state of Indiana but now considers herself to be a New Englander for life. In her spare time, Susan is a doctoral candidate at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College and also teaches and advises students in WGS.



Sandra Ullman, Program Administrator

As the program administrator, Sandra works with the student interns to coordinate the Women's Center's wide range of programs and events. She loves meeting with students, staff, and faculty members who have ideas for new programming initiatives to promote women's issues at Harvard. Sandra can be reached by email at ullman@fas.harvard.edu.

Originally from Bethesda, Maryland, Sandra joined the Women's Center staff after graduating from Harvard College in 2007, where she studied English literature and lived in Eliot House.



Bridget Duffy, Staff Assistant

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. Bridget enjoys meeting the many students who come into the space and is constantly impressed by the variety of discussions that are a part of daily life at the Women's Center.

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.



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