



Harvard College Women's Center 2008-2009 Annual Report

H C W C

creating community

HCWC Annual Report 2008-2009



The 2008-2009 staff of the Harvard College Women's Center. Back row (left to right): Andrés Castro Samayoa '10, Shauna Shames GSAS, Kelsey LeBuffle '10, Rachel Gholston '11, Director Susan Marine, Kameron Collins '09, Bianca Caban '09, Ivy Wu '09, Matthews Mmopi '11. Front row: Lisa Miracchi '09, Program Administrator Sandra Ullman '07, Eva Rosenberg '10, Susan Yao '09-10, Gena Haugen '09, Administrative Coordinator Bridget Duffy.

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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.

Letters from the Director and Program Administrator

2009 was a momentous year at Harvard on a number of important fronts, and we at the Women's Center responded by staying actively involved in promoting awareness of women's and gender issues, supporting student efforts to create awareness around these issues, and working to build community among women's and gender organizations on campus. With the news of impending budget cuts as a result of the economic downturn, the possibilities inherent in the unveiling of the new academic calendar for 2010, and a new curriculum of general education on the horizon...it became increasingly clear this year that the Harvard community as a whole is undergoing a monumental transformation, one that will inevitably change the way we think, learn, and act on campus, and here at the Women's Center as well. Environmental activist Terry Tempest Williams once wrote, "I have inherited a belief in community, the promise that a gathering of the spirit can both create and change culture." We at the Women's Center also believe in the power of community – of bringing people together from all walks of life on our vibrant campus to learn about and discuss not only the ways that living in a gendered world affects all of us, but also the ways that we can use our individual and collective power to make change, and to envision a world that deeply resonates with our community values. Through our programs and events this year, and by endeavoring to simply be a warm and welcoming space, we hope we have been part of that particular kind of change – familiar and yet new, all at once. In this spirit, we look forward to the many changes ahead, and hope to welcome you personally to our happy home in Canaday B soon!

Warmly,
Susan Marine, PhD
Director, HCWC

Thank you for your interest in the Harvard College Women's Center! I have had a busy and rewarding year working alongside the Women's Center interns to develop new programming initiatives and find ways to integrate current events into our programs. Please read on to share in the exciting new programs and events that the Women's Center launched in 2008-9, our third year in operation!

As always, we tried to maintain a rich diversity of events in our calendar. Our new programs tackled issues ranging from Sarah Palin's vice-presidential candidacy to the stereotype of the 'Harvard man,' from the development of the birth control pill to the political struggles of the transgender community. We built on the success of our signature events of past years by continuing our "Alum-inating" dinners with prominent alumnae and our "Women Rock" concerts featuring female musicians in the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub. If any theme can be teased out of this vibrant array of deliberately varied projects, I think it is our increasing commitment to making our events relevant to the political and social concerns of Harvard students. If you have an idea about how the Women's Center could better advance its mission on campus, please email our staff at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu.

I will be moving on from my position at the Women's Center this fall, and I want to thank everyone who has been part of our community. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside the amazing staff, interns, and students who continue to inspire me with their dedication to social justice and community dialogue.

Best,
Sandra Ullman
Program Administrator

Number of HCWC-initiated events	28
Number of Ann Radcliffe Trust grants awarded	52
Money given to student organizations through ART grants	\$22,404
Channels on the HCWC TV	208
Visits to the HCWC website	11,099
Number of Women's Leadership Award nominations	55
Student organizations that held meetings in the HCWC	35
Total number of student organization meetings in the HCWC	532
Student organizations that held the most meetings	Radcliffe Union of Students
Groups and offices that cosponsored events with the HCWC	47
Number of countries represented by HCWC Staff	4 (South Africa, El Salvador, India, USA)



Panelists discuss Sarah Palin's vice-presidential candidacy at a forum sponsored by the Women's Center in October 2008.



Women's Center interns Kelsey LeBuffe '10 and Rachel Gholston '11 distribute information at a Harvard Women's Basketball game in February 2009.

Internship Reflections

by Kelsey LeBuffe '10

For me, every day spent at the Women's Center as a student intern provides an opportunity to learn something – and from the minutiae of poster design to the intricacies of planning an event, the challenges (and rewards!) are numerous. In my job as intern, I get to develop programming ideas and see them come to fruition, like the panel on Women and Sports that the Women's Center sponsored in conjunction with the Harvard Athletics Department this February. This panel was a great opportunity to merge two of my interests (I'm a member of the cross country and track teams at Harvard) and to form a new partnership with an FAS department – and a collaborative event such as this one is just one part of a larger set of diverse programs put together by the Women's Center. Part of the job of a student intern is to oversee such extensive projects as the Seneca-cosponsored Women's Week, where various student groups put on panels, film screenings, discussions, and other activities as part of a seven-day focus on gender issues. Being involved in this process this year for the first time was incredible – it reminded me of the diversity of student interests and passions on campus and allowed me an opportunity to work with groups to help them achieve their goals.

Beyond the event planning every month is our day-to-day job of staffing the Women's Center, where we interact with students in the space, answer their questions about the Women's Center's resources for students, and make sure that they feel welcome. Few people can say that they have a job where meeting students is a top priority – and just through my work this year, I've had the pleasure of getting to know a varied group of students, many of whom use the space for club meetings or just come to relax with a cup of coffee and a good book. It's a great opportunity to find out what else is going on around campus, what people care about, and how they achieve what matters most to them.

Not every moment of my job as an intern consists of chatting with students or brainstorming programming ideas: there are little things, too, some more enjoyable than others. Putting posters up all over campus is usually not my first choice of activity for 7am on a Monday morning, but seeing the events on those posters come to life – that's rewarding. As a Women's Center student intern, I have innumerable opportunities and responsibilities, and each of these is done with an obligation to my peers to make our campus as inclusive, thoughtful, and fun as it can be! Above all else at the Women's Center, I value the community that develops around our space and outside of the walls of the Canaday basement – because, after all, it is this community that makes our campus a home.

Kelsey LeBuffe '10 is an English concentrator.



Interns Lisa Miracchi '09, Eva Rosenberg '10, Andrés Castro Samayoa '10, and Matthews Mmopi '11 hang out at the Women's Center's fall art exhibit.

Fall 2008 Events

Women's Community Fair: Sept. 24

The third annual Women's Community Fair, organized by the Women's Center and the Seneca, Inc., brought in over 40 student organizations who sought to reach out to Harvard undergraduate women and raise awareness about their organizations. With representatives from student groups that ranged from pre-professional organizations to ethnic groups to public service clubs, the fair drew in students from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The fair took place in Lowell Dining Hall, where the organizers set up two circles of tables for groups to put up displays, pass out fliers, and talk to interested students about their organizations. Throughout the evening, members of the Seneca and interns from the Women's Center raffled off gift certificates from restaurants and popular stores in Harvard Square. Brightly-colored banners, upbeat music, and tables strewn with candy and giveaways added to the casual, cheerful atmosphere.

Students mingled over free desserts and hot chocolate, using the opportunity to find out about the wide array of opportunities open to women. Because of the large scale and inclusive nature of the event, several students reported being pleasantly surprised by the number of new student organizations that they had discovered.



Student leaders represented their organizations and recruited new members at the Women's Community Fair.



Women's Center interns welcomed students to the fair with maps and raffle tickets.

I felt the Women's Community Fair was a unique opportunity to see the broad range of female-oriented student groups on campus all in one place. It was reassuring to see all of Lowell dining hall packed with women who are passionate about their work on campus, from Circle of Women to Vestis to The Seneca, and everyone in between. Even though there was no way I could become involved with all of them, I really enjoyed learning about what they do on campus and beyond, and the event made me more informed about the activities and organizations geared toward women at Harvard.

- AMELIA MULLER '11

HCWC Fall Open House: Sept. 25



Intern Rachel Gholston '11 explains the Women's Center's resources to a student.

The Women's Center opened its doors on September 25th for its third annual fall open house. Students came to this event to learn about the resources available at the Women's Center, to meet the staff and interns of the Women's Center, and to hang out with friends before the start of classes. The Women's Center staff kicked off the center's third year in operation by setting up stations with information about the different components of the Women's Center's work, from the Radcliffe Mentor program to student group meeting space, from the Ann Radcliffe Trust grant program to free coffee in the lounge. The Women's Center was particularly excited to welcome students from the class of 2012 and to introduce first-year students to the opportunities available at the Women's Center.

"Mentoring Deconstructed" Lecture: Oct. 1



Dr. Carol Muller, founder of MentorNet, shared her insights about effective mentoring.

In partnership with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, the Women's Center coordinated a lecture by Dr. Carol Muller, founder of MentorNet. In her talk, Dr. Muller discussed the structure of effective mentoring relationships and gave the audience tips about how to identify and approach potential mentors. Dr. Muller spoke specifically about the necessity for women in academic and professional settings to build their own board of mentors.

The Office of Faculty Development and Diversity and the Harvard College Women's Center present a lecture from the *Perspectives on Life in the Academy* series:

Dr. Carol Muller
Founder and former CEO of MentorNet

Mentoring Deconstructed:
Extracting Experience and Wisdom from Those Who Have Gone Before You

Wednesday, Oct. 1st. 5-6:30pm
Fong Auditorium, Reception to Follow

Please register at www.faculty.harvard.edu/perspectives.html

Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture: Sept. 11

The Women's Center and the Freshman Dean's Office sponsored the 10th annual Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture during freshman orientation week. The lecture, entitled "The Science of Mixed Peoples: Admixture, Genetics, and Cultural Identity" was delivered by Professor Evelyn Hammonds, Dean of Harvard College and Professor of the History of Science and African and African American Studies. Emerson Hall 105 was packed with first-year students who gathered to hear Professor Hammonds' words. The Ann Radcliffe Trust in Harvard College exists to raise awareness of women, women's leadership, and women's issues at Harvard and beyond, while emphasizing relevance to the undergraduate students it serves. The goal of the annual ART lecture is to ensure that first-year students meet and learn from a prominent female faculty member early in their time at Harvard.



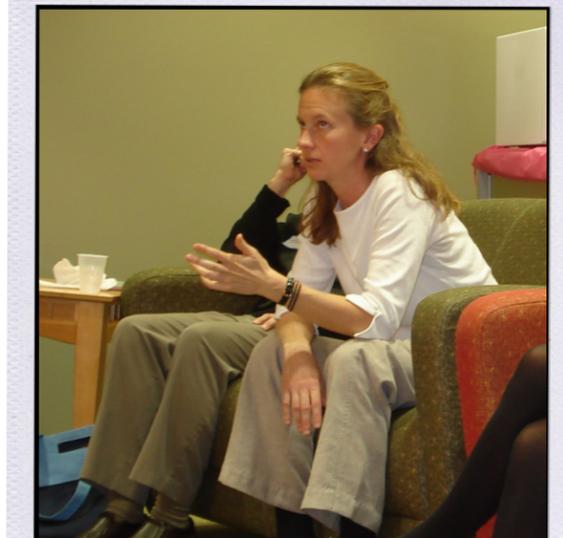
Professor Evelyn Hammonds delivers the 10th annual Ann Radcliffe Trust lecture.

Alum-inating! A Lunch with Sara Jobin '91: Oct. 3

The Alum-inating dinner series has become a tradition at the Women's Center. Every semester, we invite prominent alumae to host a lunch in our lounge where they can share their experiences with current undergraduates. This fall, we welcomed Sara Jobin '91, a nationally acclaimed conductor, as our Alum-inating guest. Jobin joined a group of students at the Women's Center lounge and shared her views on her career in the arts over a Thai lunch. One of the focal points of the discussion was her impression of the role gender played in her career. Having written a thesis on the history of female composers, Jobin acknowledged that her thoughts on gender influenced her thinking about music as an undergraduate. In 2004, Jobin became the first female conductor of the San Francisco Opera mainstage.

Students also had an opportunity to ask Jobin for advice, particularly those students interested in pursuing a career in the arts. Jobin encouraged the attendees to reflect on their passions and pursue them whole-heartedly, though admitted that pursuing a career in music was not the only way to make music a meaningful part of one's life.

The event was co-sponsored with the Office for the Arts at Harvard, who invited Jobin to campus as the 2008-09 Clifton Visiting Artist for 'Learning From Performers.'



Sara Jobin '91, Clifton Visiting Artist, shared her career advice and Harvard stories with a group of undergraduate students.

"The Pill" Film Screening: Oct. 8

The Women's Center hosted a screening of "The Pill," a documentary film directed by Erna Buffie and Elise Swerhone about the development, testing, and politics of the birth control pill. After the film, a group of 25 students discussed the documentary over pizza. Students expressed surprise and anger over the dangerous conditions in which the birth control pill was tested. Many students commented on the lack of dis-

cussion about the pill on campus despite its wide-spread use among female students. The provocative documentary led to a candid discussion in which students shared their own experience accessing prescriptions for the pill and commented on the broader public health issues raised in the film. The screening was cosponsored with the Radcliffe Union of Students and Peer Contraceptive Counseling.



Students engage in lively discussion after viewing "The Pill."

"Will the Real Professor Melissa Franklin Please Stand Up?" Dinner: Oct. 23



Professor Melissa Franklin hosted a casual dinner with students at the Women's Center.

On October 23rd, the Women's Center hosted the second in a series of dinners designed to promote dialogue between students and faculty members. Professor Melissa Franklin, an experimental particle physicist and a professor in the Harvard Physics Department, chatted informally with students while everyone snacked on her favorite Indian dishes. Professor Franklin spoke to the audience of both undergraduates and graduate physics students about her circuitous journey to graduate school and how she ended up as a professor at Harvard.

One of the first women in the Harvard Physics Department, Professor Franklin offered several insights and words of wisdom to the many students in the audience interested in following her footsteps, as well as amusing and enlightening anecdotes about her childhood and her experiences with colleagues. Throughout the dinner, Professor Franklin graciously answered questions from students about both her academic and personal life, and many students walked away with a much better grasp of life as an academic.

"Women Rock! Volume II" Pub Night: Oct. 25



The Women's Center interns and supporters celebrated at the pub!



Student musician Cat Tuttle '09 performed at "Women Rock! Vol. 2".



Between sets, the audience was entertained with trivia questions about prominent women in music.

I think that the Women's Center's decision to feature independent female student musicians at the event set an important new precedent – and one that I hope will be built on in the future! You could feel the audience's excitement to be rocking out to a female musician: there's so much energy for women's causes, and it was great to see that channeled through and responding to music.

-KELSEY QUIGLEY '09

The Women's Center proudly hosted its second pub night entitled "Women Rock! Volume II." The annual "Women Rock" pub night was designed to celebrate the talent of Harvard's female musicians. This year, we welcomed performers Cat Tuttle '09 and Kelsey Quigley '09 and her band to the stage. Students came to the Cambridge Queen's Head pub to enjoy the music, sip a glass of "Women Rock" sangria, and chat with Women's Center interns who brought information about upcoming events as well as inflatable guitars and glow sticks. The festive atmosphere continued late into the evening as attendees danced to the live music.

"Let's Talk About Sarah Palin" Panel: Oct. 28



Panelists from left to right: IOP Fellow Alex Castellanos, MASS NOW President Vicky Steinberg, HKS Lecturer Tim McCarthy, and MA State Director of Concerned Women for America Tammy Mosher.

A panel discussion and Q&A provided a forum for students to engage with issues surrounding Sarah Palin's vice-presidential candidacy in an informative, multi-partisan environment.

The diverse panel consisted of: Alex Castellanos, Institute of Politics Fellow and Republican media consultant; Tammy Mosher, Director of the Massachusetts branch of Concerned Women for America; Vicky Steinberg, Co-President of Massachusetts National Organization for Women (NOW); and Tim McCarthy, Lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School and member of Barack Obama's National LGBT Advisory Council.

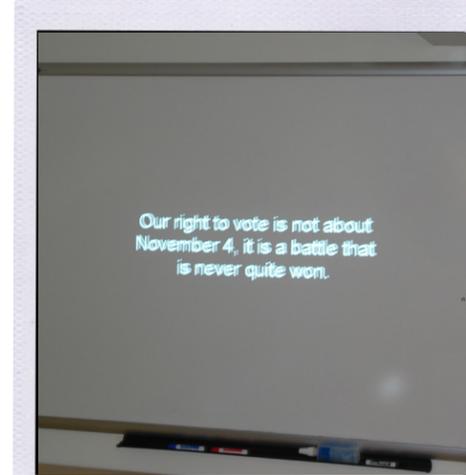
Students had the opportunity to hear a wide range of well-informed perspectives and to ask questions of the panelists after their discussion. Malcom Glenn '09, president of the Harvard Crimson, moderated the event, asking the panelists questions about Sarah Palin's candidacy – the impact of her candidacy on the 2009 presidential election and more broadly on women in politics, media coverage of her candidacy, her stances on policy issues such as energy, foreign policy, abortion laws, gay rights, and much more. After the panel, students had the opportunity to meet with individual panelists at a casual dinner reception to continue the discussion.

The event aimed to provide a forum for students to go beyond party and campaign rhetoric to gain a more nuanced understanding of Sarah Palin as a political candidate and the meaning of her candidacy for politics more generally.

Panel members said that Palin's candidacy was hindered by sexism in the media.

"What we're witnessing in the media is a tragic study in what women are up against running for office in this country. Either they are seen as competent and threatening or as a joke worthy of ridicule," [Vicky] Steinberg said, speaking about the coverage of Hillary Clinton as well.

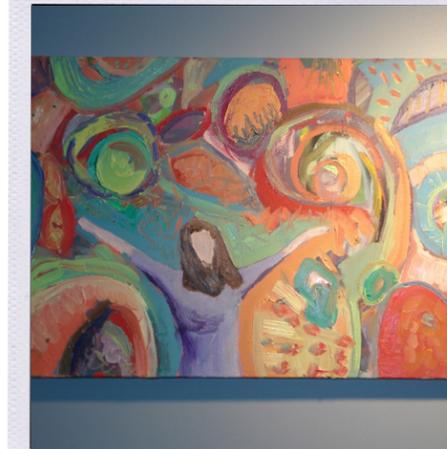
-DANELLA H. DEBEL, The Harvard Crimson. October 30, 2008.



Slideshow: "My Right to Vote" by Susan Yao '09-10.



Students enjoy the historical pieces from the suffrage movement.



Painting: "New Power" by Liz Powers '10

"Casting the First Ballot" Art Show: Nov. 1

Since 2006, the Women's Center has featured an art exhibit every semester that encourages members of the community to reflect on a particular gender-related issue through art. The Fall '08 show invited students to reflect on an issue that was of particular relevance during the later months of 2008: the upcoming presidential elections. Given that most members of the undergraduate community faced the unique opportunity of voting in a presidential election for the first time, the purpose of the exhibit was to draw parallels between their experience as first-time voters and the suffrage movement in the early 20th century.

In collaboration with the Schlesinger Library, Andrés Castro Samayoa '10 curated a collection of photographs and historical ephemera that documented the history of women's struggle in attaining the right to vote. The exhibit also presented original student art that displayed students' views on being a first-time voter and commemorated the personal significance of women's right to vote. As in past exhibits, the walls of the Women's Center displayed a range of artistic forms of media, including Powerpoint presentations, photography, and collages. Liz Powers '10 presented a folk art acrylic piece titled "New Power" designed to "uplift and empower the viewer" in celebration of the suffrage movements' success.

By paralleling past and present political movements, the exhibit reinforces the importance of youth activism. "We're in college. It's our first real chance to get heard," Matthews Mmopi '11 says. "We need to remember that someone else made this freedom possible. Someone else invested in the mission and it paid off."

-MADELEINE M. SCHWARTZ, The Harvard Crimson, Nov. 7 2008.

The event, attended by both undergraduates and members of the Harvard community, received positive reviews from members of the community. Jennifer Malin '09 commented that the "mix of artistic and historical works" was "very timely and inspiring." Many of the students who attended the exhibit said it was inspiring to reflect on the history of the suffrage movement on the eve of casting their first vote in a presidential election.

Come hear a wide range of perspectives on Palin's candidacy and get a chance to ask a diverse panel your questions.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SARAH PALIN

Wednesday October 29th
Fong Auditorium
5-6:30pm, with pizza
and informal conversation
to follow

PANEL

Moderator: **Malcom Glenn '09**, President of the Harvard Crimson
Alex Castellanos, Republican media consultant
Vicky Steinberg, co-president of Mass NOW (Massachusetts National Organization for Women)
Tammy Mosher, MA state director of Concerned Women for America
Tim McCarthy, Lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School and member of Barack Obama's National LGBT Advisory Council.

This event is sponsored by the Harvard College Women's Center, Committee for Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, the Institute of Politics, Harvard College Democrats, Harvard Republican Club, Radcliffe Union of Students, Students for Choice, Harvard Right to Life and the Conservative Women's Caucus.



Women's Global Health Panel: Nov. 12



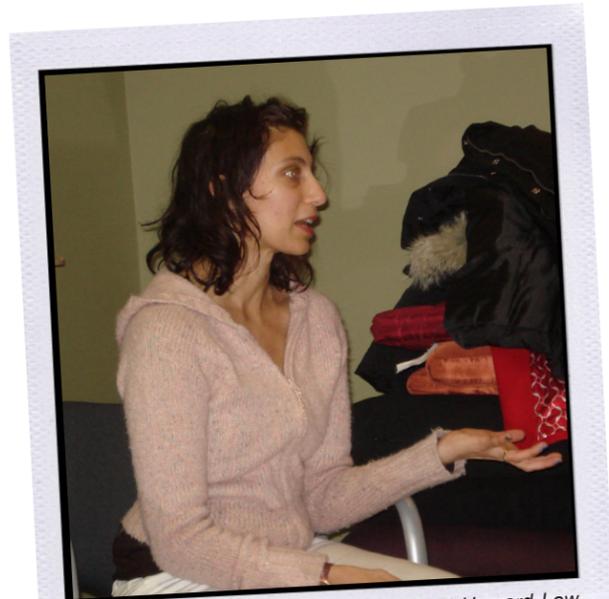
Panelists Erin Hasselberg, Norma Swenson, and Dina Bogecho discuss priorities in women's global health.

As part of Harvard College's Global Health Week, the Women's Center teamed up with the Harvard University Global Health Forum to present a panel discussion on important issues concerning women's global health. The panel included Norma Swenson from the Harvard School of Public Health, Dina Bogecho from International Health and Human Rights, and Erin Hasselberg from John Snow Healthcare Consulting. Panelists addressed what they believed to be the most pressing issues currently facing women's global health. The panel's diversity allowed for a wide variety of topics to be covered, including reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, and access to health facilities in developing countries. During the question and answer segment that followed the presentations, many students raised questions about how they could get involved with working on these issues. Students had the opportunity to connect with the panelists more intimately over a Finale dessert reception following the event.

"Images of Sex Workers in Popular Film" Discussion: Nov. 19

On November 19th, the Women's Center hosted Dr. Ummni Khan, a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School, who led a discussion on representations of sex workers in popular film. Dr. Khan put together an array of clips from movies like "Pretty Woman" and "My Own Private Idaho," as well as from the sex worker-produced documentary "Live Nude Girls Unite!". Participants viewed each film clip while Women's Center intern Matthews Mmopi '11 jotted down the group's reactions about how each film portrayed the sex workers' agency, identity, and relationships to others.

After viewing the clips, Dr. Khan led us in a discussion about how portrayals of sex workers in popular film distort the realities of the sex work industry. Over snacks, we debated how these films set certain expectations about what a sex worker looks and acts like and the ways in which sex workers resist these inaccurate representations. Our facilitator's expertise in issues of law and popular representations of sexuality contributed greatly to the discussion, as did the wide range of participants' experiences and viewpoints.



Dr. Ummni Khan, a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School, hosted a discussion at the Women's Center on the portrayal of sex workers in popular film.

Discussion with Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore: Nov. 14

Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, a queer writer and gender activist, visited the Women's Center for a discussion with students about her career. She is the author of many books including "Nobody Passes: Rejecting the Rules of Gender and Conformity" and "So Many Ways to Sleep Badly." She spoke about her life in San Francisco and her sense of the political priorities for the queer community. Students engaged with Mattilda on a wide range of topics, from gay marriage to how to make a living as an activist and writer. Mattilda responded to students' questions with candor and humor. Many students commented on the importance of creating more forums for radical feminist dialogue.

This event was cosponsored with the Harvard Transgender Task Force.



Author and activist Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore talks with students in the Women's Center lounge.

"Lioness" Film Screening: Nov. 24



On Monday, November 24th the Women's Center screened "Lioness," a powerful documentary following the lives of five women deployed in Iraq originally as cooks, clerks and mechanics who returned from Iraq as the first group of women to experience front-line combat. The documentary narrates the hardships of life upon their return as well as the disparity between their mission and federal law prohibiting women from participating in direct front-line combat.

The screening was followed by a discussion intended to explore and reflect on the issues raised by these women's experiences. Although the documentary highlighted the tensions between governmental policies and the reality faced in the front lines, it also prompted questions on women's treatment as war veterans, access to health care, and absence from media accounts of the Iraq war. We concluded the evening by distributing a list of resources that we had compiled for people interested in further involvement with these issues, including a series of military women and women veteran websites that work to raise awareness on this important issue.

Image courtesy of <http://lionesthefilm.com>

"Have Your Cake and Eat it Too" Workshop: Dec. 3

Psychotherapist and speaker Rivka Simmons led a workshop on healthy eating sponsored by the Women's Center and ECHO, a student organization dedicated to counseling students with eating concerns. Throughout the workshop, Rivka presented strategies for developing a gentle and positive relationship with food, such as avoiding strict diets and carefully monitoring one's level of hunger. Students practiced mindful eating by slowly enjoying a Hershey's kiss and describing the flavors as they tasted them. Rivka challenged students to resist categorizing foods as good or bad and to focus instead on their body's hunger signals and on enjoying a variety of foods in moderation. Many attendees shared their questions about how to make healthy eating a priority in their hectic college schedules. After the workshop, students expressed excitement over the opportunity to address such personal issues in a supportive group environment.



Rivka Simmons, psychotherapist and educator, led the "Have Your Cake and Eat it Too" workshop.

HCWC Night at the American Repertory Theater: Dec. 3

To celebrate the prominence of female actors, directors, and playwrights in the American Repertory Theater's 2008-2009 season, the Women's Center proudly continued its annual tradition of sponsoring a "Night at the Theater" for undergraduate students. Forty students attended "Aurélia's Oratorio" on December 3rd. "Aurélia's Oratorio" features actress and acrobat Aurélia Thierrée and is written and directed by her mother, Victoria Thierrée Chaplin.



Image courtesy of <http://www.amrep.org>

The production features a series of vignettes and illusions that create a sense of fantasy and magic. The "Edge Boston" described the performance as "Dreamlike and enchanting...Aurélia's Oratorio is akin to living inside a glass of champagne: for an hour and a half, reality itself seems effervescent."

The Women's Center is committed to highlighting the achievements of women in the arts on the Harvard campus and beyond, and this partnership with the American Repertory Theater allows us to pursue that goal while simultaneously offering undergraduates an opportunity to access this tremendous community resource.

Dinner with Professor Susan Stryker: Dec. 9



Visiting professor Susan Stryker discusses her life and work with undergraduates and Harvard community members at the Women's Center.

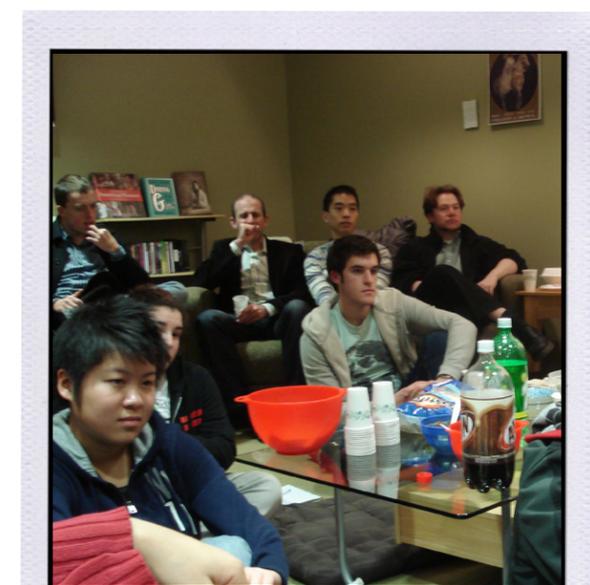
The Women's Center's dinner event with Susan Stryker on Tuesday, December 9 filled the lounge. No wonder, as Professor Stryker, visiting faculty in the Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality for the fall term, is a renowned transgender historian, a veteran community organizer, and an Emmy award-winning documentary film maker! Professor Stryker was hilarious and engaging as she answered questions about her personal and professional life over the course of two hours, on topics ranging from navigating transphobia in the academy to her relationship with her children. Graduate students, alumnae/-i, and other members of the Harvard Transgender Task Force (TTF), which co-sponsored the event with the Women's Center, brought wonderful diversity to the often all-undergraduate space.

We served Mexican food, Professor Stryker's favorite, and opened the floor for questions. Attendees wanted to know about her opinions of Harvard (as compared to her native San Francisco) and her analysis of the current state of the transgender movement. Professor Stryker told us about her rich and varied academic career, in which her visit to Harvard is only short chapter. She talked about growing up and learning what "transgender" meant in Oklahoma, and about falling in love with the Bay Area. After the end of the event, she stayed to chat with several fans, a characteristically generous move.

transgender historian
guacamole lover
community activist
emmy award-winner
mother of two
football fan

Get to know Susan Stryker
 Visiting Professor in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
 We'll provide her favorite dinner, you can bring the conversation.
 Tuesday December 9th ~ 7pm
 at the Harvard College Women's Center
 RSVP to hcwc@fas

HOSTED BY THE HARVARD COLLEGE WOMEN'S CENTER
 CO-SPONSORED BY
 THE TRANSGENDER TASK FORCE AND
 THE COMMITTEE ON STUDIES OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY



Students gather in the Women's Center lounge to listen to Professor Stryker.

"Falling for Grace" Film Screening: Dec. 11



On December 11th, actress, producer, and director Fay Ann Lee visited Harvard to screen her romantic comedy, "Falling for Grace." "Falling For Grace" premiered at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival, where it screened under the title "East Broadway."

The event began with a dinner with Ms. Lee, attended by the leaders of the co-sponsoring student organizations. Afterwards, more than 100 students came to Fong Auditorium to view the film. The screening was followed by a talk with Ms. Lee, who detailed the struggles and setbacks she faced in her production of the film and the many pressures she encountered as an Asian American woman in the entertainment industry.

The next day, Ms. Lee joined a group of interested students in the Women's Center Lounge for lunch where she continued taking questions from students. The conversation focused on her career and her advice for students interested in breaking into the film industry. Many students asked questions about the process of independently producing and distributing a film, and Ms. Lee discussed the importance of making films with substantive roles for women and minorities.

The event was co-sponsored with the Asian American Women's Association, Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service, The Harvard Foundation, and Chinese Students Association.

I thought that Fay Ann Lee was a wonderful guest because she represents so many different perspectives and has such a unique story that many undergraduates found compelling yet accessible, whether or not they were interested in the arts and media, women's issues, or race relations in the United States.

-JOYCE ZHANG '09



Ms. Lee addresses a group of Harvard students after a screening of her independent film "Falling for Grace."



Ms. Lee talks with students at the Harvard College Women's Center about the representation of women and minorities in Hollywood films.

Spring 2009 Events

V-Day Do-It-Yourself Crafts Night: Feb. 10

The Women's Center joined forces with the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (OSAPR) and the Harvard College Art Society (HArt) to host our first do-it-yourself V-Day crafts night on February 10. The event, held in the Women's Center, aimed to celebrate the feminist crafting tradition, as well as to screen the 2003 film documentary "Until the Violence Stops" in preparation for the annual campus production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." "Until the Violence Stops" is a powerful glimpse into the international grass-roots movement to stop violence against women and girls. The movement grew out of Ensler's hit off-broadway show in 1998, and the film nicely connected the event to the on-campus performance sponsored by OSAPR and the Women's Center later that week.

The evening also marked the first of what will hopefully be many collaborations between the Women's Center and HArt. Students came together to eat pizza, work with stenciling tools, and design Valentine cards and assorted felt objects. The Women's Center interns and the HArt Board pooled their resources to provide participants with everything from ribbons and stickers to needles and threads. The night's creations varied, with plenty of pillows and elaborate greeting cards, and many visitors stayed for the entire evening, working until the last minutes before closing to complete their masterpieces.



Students make their own Valentine's day cards at the Women's Center's V-Day celebration.

Weekly Meditation Group

The Women's Center continued holding a weekly meditation group this year. The meditation group has been a valuable resource to students who are interested in mind-body techniques to deal with stress and to live more mindfully. The meditation group has always sought to remain non-denominational in order to be as inclusive as possible. Exercises are usually from Buddhist traditions, but students do not have to be Buddhist to participate.

This year, the group was led by HCWC Director Susan Marine in the fall, and intern Susan Yao '09-'10 in the spring. The focus was on sitting meditation, with some variation in exercises, like using a meditation CD to guide meditation. Towards the end of the year, eating meditation, or the practice of eating mindfully, became popular. Eating meditation was done using a different food each week, from cookies to cheese. Yum!

"Women Balancing Life Through Sports and Fitness... At Harvard and Beyond" Panel: Feb. 17

The Women's Center, in conjunction with the Harvard Athletics Department, sponsored a panel discussion called "Women Balancing Life Through Sports and Fitness...at Harvard and Beyond" in February. The panel, moderated by the head women's basketball coach Kathy Delaney-Smith, featured prominent members of the Harvard athletics community: Liz O'Leary, the head coach of Radcliffe Crew; Jess Gelman, the Director of New Business Development and Operational Initiatives for the Kraft Sports Group; and Wendy Healy, the Harvard Recreation general manager. Topics of discussion included the presence of women in professional sports both as athletes and administrators, the importance of female role models for young girls in sports, and the necessity of continued conversation about women in sports generally, among many other interesting perspectives. It was an informative and inspiring event filled with delicious food and good conversation – we look forward to working with the Athletics Department again in the future.



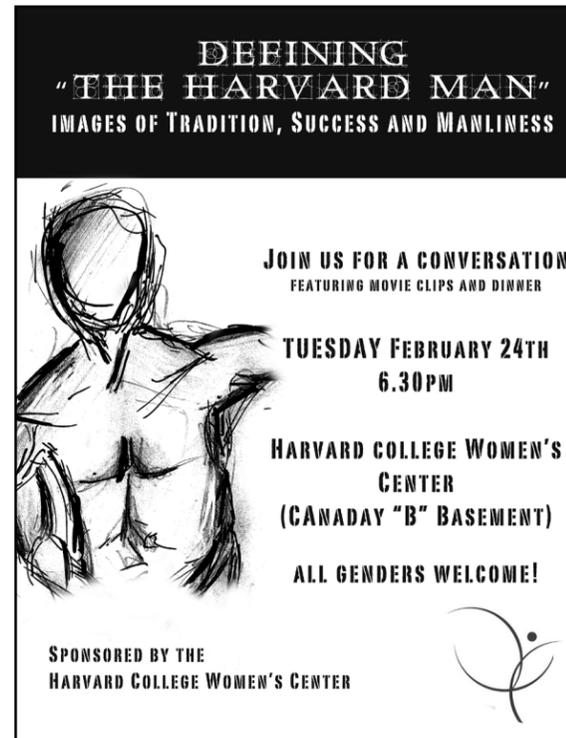
Panelists Jess Gelman, Wendy Healy, and Liz O'Leary discuss the importance of promoting women's sports and fitness at Harvard.

Sports play a huge role in our culture and can enhance so many areas of life, yet too many women lack a basic level of confidence when it comes to athletics and sports. We do not have enough role models and mentors, and women are missing incredible opportunities both professionally and personally. I believe that educating and making women and girls aware at a young age will open up many new opportunities.

-KATHY DELANEY-SMITH, Women's Basketball Coach



The Women's Center co-sponsored the Harvard Women's Basketball Pink Zone game, a fundraiser for breast cancer charities, on February 21st, 2009.



"Defining the Harvard Man" Film Screening and Discussion: Feb. 24

On February 24th, the Women's Center invited members of the Harvard community to discuss ideals of manhood and success at Harvard. The event was an opportunity for undergraduates to reflect on the implications of masculinity in their everyday experiences and for people of all genders to discuss their interactions with male-identified people on campus. The discussion was centered on film clips chosen by Women's Center interns from three commercial films: "Legally Blond," "The Great Debaters," and "Love Story." The films touched on race-based and class-based notions of manhood at Harvard and served as starting points for the conversation on the meanings of masculinity at Harvard.

Drawing from personal experiences as well as the film clips, members of the audience discussed the expectations and stereotypes that popular media continue to place on Harvard men. The conversation touched on issues of courtship practices, stereotypes of wealth, intelligence, and (mis)conceptions of success. The conversation ended with reflections on ways in which we could continue to challenge these notions in our everyday experiences. Featuring pad thai, a large audience, and thoughtful anecdotes, this event was a great start to an ongoing conversation on masculinities at Harvard.



Harvard students gather to discuss different perceptions of masculinity on campus.

It was really eye-opening to examine the issues of social life, classes, leadership on campus, jobs after school, drinking, studying, and dating, a fairly substantial list, all with the question of the degree to which these facets of our lives could be influenced by gender issues. I walked away with more questions than I could or would normally entertain based on such a short discussion, and it was definitely an educational experience for me.

-MATTHEW SUNDQUIST '09

"Women and Suicide Attacks" Discussion: Feb. 26



Professor Ian Lekus facilitated a discussion on gender and suicide attacks in the Middle East.

With growing tensions in the Middle East and increased levels of violence in the region, many have looked with increasing interest at the the question of women's roles in the conflict. The Women's Center sponsored an engaging discussion on women's roles in violent acts committed in the Middle East with an emphasis on female suicide bombers. The discussion aimed to explore the motives, methods, and missions of women who commit suicide acts in the Middle East. Professor Ian Lekus from the Committee for Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality skillfully facilitated the charged discussion. The discussion began with an informative National Public Radio clip featuring a woman who had attempted a suicide attack. The woman in the clip discussed the details of her failed attempt and her motives. Students and community members shared facts and opinions on the subject in the comfort of Ticknor lounge. Though it touched on controversial subjects, the discussion moved forward respectfully.

"At the Cusp of Change" Panel Discussion: Mar. 5

Along with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs, and the Office of Career Services, the Women's Center co-sponsored a university-wide panel and dinner discussion on women's leadership in academia. The panelists included prominent female leaders at Harvard, including Barbara Kellerman from the Harvard Kennedy School, Jacqueline Bhabha from the Harvard Kennedy School and FAS, Judith Glaven from the Harvard Medical School, and Ann Braude from the Harvard Divinity School. These women offered their reflections on gender and university leadership, and they shared candid stories about their academic journeys.

Prominent Harvard administrators served as table facilitators who helped guide small group discussions after the panel. The audience consisted of a diverse group of undergraduates, graduate students, administrators, and faculty members, and they shared their own concerns about the treatment of women scholars and leaders in university settings in an open mic conversation at the end of the event.

At the Cusp of Change: Women Leaders at Harvard

5pm Thursday, March 5th 2009. Radcliffe Gymnasium, 10 Garden Street

A moderated panel discussion on women's critical place in university leadership, featuring:

Barbara Kellerman (Moderator), James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Leadership, Founding Director of the Center for Public Leadership, Harvard Kennedy School

Jacqueline Bhabha - Lecturer in Public Policy and Director of the University Committee on Human Rights Studies and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School and Faculty of Arts & Sciences.

Judith Glaven - Associate Dean for Basic and Interdisciplinary Research, Harvard Medical School.

Ann Braude - Director of the Women's Studies in Religion Program and Senior Lecturer on American Religious History, Harvard Divinity School



Small group discussions and dinner to follow!
RSVP to hcwc@fas.harvard.edu by Monday March 2nd.

This event is cosponsored by the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, the Harvard College Women's Center, the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs, and the Office of Career Services.

Student Financial Empowerment Workshop: Mar. 3

The Women's Center hosted an evening of cookies and credit scores on March 3, 2009. The Student Financial Empowerment Workshop was an HCWC-sponsored workshop on saving, budgeting, and debt management led by Harvard alumna Rachel Van Emon '88, a successful personal finance advisor and board member of the Women's Leadership Project Alumni Network. Van Emon combined a detailed PowerPoint presentation with a variety of hands-on activities. One of the most interesting components of the workshop was a long-term goal setting activity in which students were asked to consider their ambitions, needs, and values for their lives after Harvard. The intimate setting of the Women's Center's lounge allowed students to ask questions about their own financial dilemmas. Van Emon was helpful and informative; she stayed late so that students could continue their conversations with her and ask further questions. Chatter about credit scores and budgeting could be heard as the workshop adjourned.



Rachel Van Emon '88, a financial advisor, lead a workshop on student financial empowerment that covered topics like budgeting, credit scores, and personal finance tips.



The panel discussed the importance of women in university leadership.



A diverse audience of faculty, undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, and staff reflected on the panel's remarks in small groups after the formal program ended.

Women's Week 2009: Engendering Change

The third annual celebration of Women's Week took place from March 8-13th, 2009. Women's Week is a collaboration between the Women's Center, the Women's Cabinet, and the Seneca Inc. The theme of Women's Week 2009 was "Engendering Change," and the events that were selected to be part of Women's Week all engaged with this theme in important ways.

Women's Week 2009
engendering change

March 8-13

SUNDAY
March 8, 2009
Women's Week Kickoff: International Food Festival
5:00 pm, Ticknor Lounge (Boylston Hall)
Hosts: Women's Cabinet and the Women's Cultural Leadership Network

MONDAY
March 9, 2009
Creating Agents of Change at Harvard College:
Bystander Intervention
4:00 pm, Ticknor Lounge (Boylston Hall)
Host: Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Staying Positive in a Negative Economy
7:30 pm, Sever 113
Hosts: Smart Woman Securities and Women in Business

TUESDAY
March 10, 2009
"Afghan Women: A History of Struggle"
7:00 pm, Harvard College Women's Center, Canaday B
Host: Circle of Women
Raise Your Voice: A Celebration of Women in Music
9:00 pm, Student Organization Center at Hilles
Host: Student Organization Center at Hilles

WEDNESDAY
March 11, 2009
The Color of Choice: Reproductive Rights and Women of Color
5:30 pm, Emerson 101
Hosts: Association of Black Harvard Women, Latinas Unidas, and Students for Choice
Changing the Terms of the Discussion: RAD Course and Discussion on New Anti-Violence Approaches
7:00 pm, Student Organization Center at Hilles
Host: Kappa Kappa Gamma

THURSDAY
March 12, 2009
Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones: Defending Women in Sharia Courts
4:00 pm, Tonkens Room (Winthrop House)
Hosts: Global Initiative for Women's Empowerment, Strong Women Strong Girls
Women in Politics at Harvard and Beyond
7:30 pm, Fong Auditorium (Boylston Hall)
Hosts: Harvard Democrats, Institute of Politics, Undergraduate Council

FRIDAY
March 13, 2009
Mix it Up: Why Strength Training Works
3:00 pm, Monks Library (UHS, Holyoke Center)
Host: Community Health Initiative

Sponsored by:

The Seneca, Inc. HCWC Engendering Change.




Students gathered in Ticknor lounge to kick off Women's Week with delicious food and a speech by Women's Center graduate student intern Shauna Shames '01.



Women in Business and Smart Woman Securities cosponsored a panel discussion on female entrepreneurs navigating the economic recession.

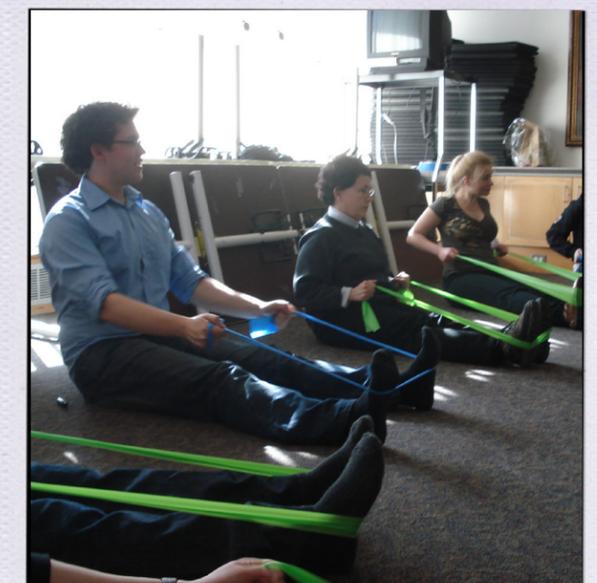


Female vocalists took to the stage at the open mic night sponsored by the Student Organization Center at Hilles.

The following student organizations and offices cosponsored events with Women's Week: Asian American Women's Association, Association of Black Harvard Women, Circle of Women, Community Health Initiative, Harvard Democrats, Global Initiative for Women's Empowerment, Institute of Politics, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Latinas Unidas, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Smart Woman Securities, South Asian Women's Collective, Strong Women Strong Girls, Student Organization Center at Hilles, Students for Choice, Undergraduate Council, Women in Business, and Women's Cultural Communities Leadership Network.



The Association of Black Harvard Women, Latinas Unidas, and Students for Choice brought in speakers to discuss the reproductive justice movement.



The Community Health Initiative hosted a strength training workshop designed to promote women's fitness.

Women's Week was truly a terrific experience for me. From the food-fest to the fitness event to the wonderful discussion with Hauwa Ibrahim, I felt that this week equipped me with invaluable knowledge of women's challenges and potential on campus and beyond. Having gained a better understanding of women's past journeys as well as hope and inspiration for the future, I came away from Women's Week deeply empowered. The events may have lasted only a week, but I am certain that their energy and commitment to women's issues continues to resonate with undergraduate women every day.

- TESS HELLGREN '10

"Women and Popular Television" Discussion: Apr. 1



Intern Ivy Wu '09 led a discussion about the portrayal of women in popular television in the Lowell JCR.

Students gathered in the Lowell Junior Common Room to discuss the portrayal of women in such popular contemporary television shows as Gossip Girl, Grey's Anatomy, and Nip/Tuck. This event was presented as the senior project of Ivy Wu '09 and was cosponsored by the Seneca, Inc. and the Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service.



Exploring topics from catfights to using sex as manipulation, attendees viewed five to 10-minute clips and delved into deeper discussions on self-image and mental health. The group spoke on the danger of watching these shows that portray a focus on the superficial and exaggerated social expectations. "The way it affects us is subconscious." [Ivy] Wu said. "Whatever is familiar to you becomes the norm, and our ideas of relationships and sexuality are shaped by what we expose ourselves to."

-MINJI KIM, The Harvard Crimson, April 2, 2009.

"The Paradox of Pornography" Lecture: Apr. 13

On Monday, April 13th, as part of the kickoff for "Take Back the Night" week at Harvard, Dr. Robert Jensen gave a lecture called "The Paradox of Pornography." Dr. Jensen, author of "Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity" and Professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas, spoke to a large crowd about the negative effects of pornography in today's society. Challenging men to reflect on the consequences of their own use of pornography, Dr. Jensen reported on his own research in the industry in an effort to open up a dialogue on the link between pornography and sexual violence. The event was cosponsored with the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, the Center for Wellness and Health Communication, Harvard Men Against Rape, the OSAPR Student Alliance, the Black Men's Forum, and the Latino Men's Collective.



Bob Jensen spoke to a crowd in Sever 113 about the problems of sexism and racism in pornography.

12th Annual Women's Leadership Awards: Apr. 21

The Women's Center hosted the 12th annual Women's Leadership Awards dinner on April 21st 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 Sarah Lockridge-Steckel '09, a student whose leadership in the public service community and Black Students Association distinguished her in a competitive pool of nominees. An honorable mention was awarded to Daniela Gilbert '09, who has also been active at Philips Brooks House and in the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

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 the new artistic director of the American Repertory Theater, Diane Paulus '87, who was recently nominated for a Tony award for her production of "Hair" on Broadway. The Harvard College Women's Leadership Awards are funded through an endowment established with a gift from Harvard alumna Terrie Fried Bloom '75.

"In so many ways, both on campus and beyond, you have embodied the spirit of what you believe to be essential to leadership: a commitment to a greater purpose than furthering your own ambitions."

-PROFESSOR DAVID AGER to Women's Leadership Award winner Sarah Lockridge-Steckel '09.



From left to right: Diane Paulus '87, winner of the Women's Professional Award, Sarah Lockridge-Steckel '09, winner of the Women's Leadership Award, and Daniela Gilbert '09, Honorable Mention.



Ryan Travia, the director of the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Dean Inge-Lise Ameer, and Dean Judith Kidd celebrated at the Women's Leadership Awards ceremony.



At the Drag Workshop, a drag king and queen shared their experiences and offered tips.



Activist Gunner Scott spoke about the legal and political challenges facing the transgender community.



The Tranny Roadshow, a traveling group of transgender musicians and artists, performed in the Pforzheimer House Dining Hall.

Transgender Task Force Events

In April the Women's Center teamed up with the Harvard Transgender Task Force, a subcommittee of the Harvard College Queer Students and Allies (QSA) to put on three events related to LGBTQ issues surrounding gender, performance, and politics. These events aimed to create safe spaces to explore issues of gender-identity and gender performance.

On April 5, drag king Heywood Wakefield facilitated a Drag Workshop with drag queen Fena Barbitall. Participants explored many elements of drag performance, from developing a character to applying a moustache.

On April 23, Gunner Scott, Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and M. Barusch '06, co-founder of the Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates, gave a presentation on transgender issues in law and politics in Massachusetts and nationally. They discussed issues such as employment discrimination, lack of access to medical care, and hate crimes. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session where students had the opportunity to ask further questions and talk about how to include activism in these issues in their college and post-college lives.

On April 28, the Tranny Roadshow, a group of eight transgender-identified singers, musicians, poets, and spoken word artists performed in the Pforzheimer House Dining Hall. The performers touched on many different issues in their lives, from family and romantic relationships to dealing with one's body and bodily modifications. The diversity of the performers' experience and backgrounds created a unique event that was educational, heart-warming, and community-building.

"Trans people are the one minority that really have no discrimination coverage in this country," said former Harvard Trans Task Force Chair Lisa J. Miracchi '09, who organized the panel...

Miracchi said she arranged the event to increase awareness for trans issues.

"Once you know people who face this everyday difficulty navigating the world, it touches you," Miracchi said. "I couldn't not try to do something about it."

-DANIELLE J. KOLIN, The Harvard Crimson, April 24, 2009.

Queerness and Athletics Panel: Apr. 29



Students share their perspectives about the challenges facing queer student athletes on campus.

For his Women's Center senior project, intern Kameron Collins '09 assembled a panel of gay, lesbian, and bisexual, students and allies who participate in varsity athletics at Harvard. The panel offered candid insight on the experience of coming out on a sports team, mentoring fellow queer or questioning student athletes, and navigating social scenes at Harvard that stereotypically do not intersect.

"I think that this panel will be one of the most informative experiences that I take away from Harvard," said one audience member, Adam R. Singerman '09. "I haven't had the experience of hearing from queer athletes or straight athletes or any athletes about queerness intersecting with the athletics sphere at Harvard, so in that sense it was completely new information which was fascinating."

-ALEXANDRA E. ZIMBLER, The Harvard Crimson, April 20 2008.

Alum-inating! Dinner with Susan Faludi '81: Apr. 30

Susan Faludi '81, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and author of "Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women," visited the Women's Center to meet with students and discuss her upcoming project on intergenerational feminism. After offering some reflections on the status of women at Harvard College in the early 1980s, Faludi explained her interest in researching the ways that different generations approach feminist activism, priorities, and organization, and how feminist political power is or is not passed from generation to generation. Students discussed the differences they perceived between second and third wave feminism and shared their own views on how young people accept or struggle with the "feminist" label and with feminist politics.

The Women's Center's Alum-inating series aims to create opportunities for alumnae to return to the college in an informal setting to engage with undergraduate students about career advice, reflections on Harvard, and the issues that are most important to them.



Susan Faludi '81, award-winning writer and journalist, discusses intergenerational feminism with students at the Women's Center.

Naked Ladies Brunch: May 3



Women's Center interns prepare for the arrival of clothing swappers.



Interns displayed new items as they were offered up for exchange.



Students look through piles of clothing in the lounge.



As a first timer at the Naked Ladies' Brunch, I was really impressed with the number of people and the selection of clothes! For someone like me on a limited budget, it was a great way to get to pick out some new items and to get rid of some things that had been sitting in my closet untouched for about two years. Also, the french toast might have been the most delicious thing I've ever tasted.

-LIZ CLARKIN-BRESLIN '09

This year's Naked Ladies Brunch coincided with a celebratory end of the year party for the Women's Center. The annual clothing drive brought students together for delicious food – including fruit, bagels, and the highly anticipated crème brûlée French toast - and a wide variety of outfits to choose from. Students carried in large bags and boxes filled with clothes to donate and swap, and the Women's Center was transformed into a makeshift clothing boutique, with sample outfits adorning office windows and a private dressing room taking the place of the conference room. While some students simply chose to drop off clothing, others joined the swapping and left the Women's Center with full stomachs and plenty of new clothing combinations. The event benefited the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation (BBBSF) of Boston and by the end of the afternoon had generated upwards of ten large bags of clothing to donate to the foundation.

HCWC Programs

The Radcliffe Mentor Program

The Radcliffe Mentor Program turned 23 years old this year, and along with this milestone came some important changes to the program. The program was established to enable alumnae from Radcliffe to form meaningful relationships with undergraduates, and to offer career development advice, personal support, and strategies for developing sound work-life balance skills. This year, 114 fabulous mentors from all walks of professional life after college mentored 146 students, offering them wisdom and personal insights from the world of work and family that these students will put to good use in planning their futures.

Because event attendance has been uneven at best for the last couple of years, the Mentor Program Advisory Committee decided to focus this year on encouraging pairs to find suitable activities to do together, or in small groups, that did not require the considerable planning and resources of a large, program-wide event. To assist mentors and mentees in identifying meaningful activities, the Women's Center created and mailed an event newsletter about every six weeks, providing detailed listings of events of interest happening on and around campus. In response, both mentors and mentees have commented favorably on this new format and the flexibility it offers pairs to pursue their relationship through shared interests.

The Women's Center did continue two very important program traditions: the Annual Mentor Program Kickoff on November 2nd, 2008, where mentors and mentees met for the first time over brunch and lively conversation. The program also continued the tradition of "Career Conversations," a chance for students in the program to get to meet other mentors and discuss multiple perspectives on important life questions. Students visited different tables at the brunch this year, in a 'round robin' format. At each table, mentors from diverse fields and life situations discussed their views on four critical questions for professional women: What

advice do you wish you had gotten in college related to your financial future? How does/did your concentration relate to your career path? How do you hold on and pursue to your passions (e.g. hobbies, interests, etc)? And finally, how do you balance relationships with work? Feedback from the day was glowing: one mentee wrote that she "didn't know what I could do to take control of these issues in my own life, but after talking with these talented, open women, I feel like I can handle whatever comes down the road." Given the state of the economy and the relatively dim prospects for young people entering the work world in 2009 and beyond, the Radcliffe Mentor Program continues to offer an important advantage for those who take part in it. If you're an alumna and would like to be involved in the program as a mentor, or you are a student who'd like to be part of the 2010 mentor matching process, please contact the Women's Center to learn more!



Mentors and mentees dine together at the Radcliffe Mentor Program Kickoff event.

The Women's Cabinet



Women's Cabinet members Beatrice Liem '11, Karen Narefsky '11, and Tara Venkatraman '11.

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 active members of the Women's Cabinet in 2008-2009 were: the Association of Black Harvard Women, the Athena Conference, Freeze College Magazine, Latinas Unidas, the OSAPR Student Alliance, the Pitches, Queer Students and Allies, the Radcliffe Union of Students, the Radcliffe Choral Society, Harvard Right to Life, Smart Woman Securities, 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 group or any student group that addresses issues of gender, please email us at hcwc@fas.harvard.edu for more information about joining the Women's Cabinet.

Science Mentors Program

The Science Mentors Program seeks to foster a sense of community for women studying science, math, computer science, and engineering at Harvard. The program links faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students to create a network for women scientists. Female graduate students are matched up with female undergraduates concentrating in a related field of science, math, computer science, or engineering, and these mentor/mentee pairs are encouraged to meet regularly to discuss coursework, research, graduate studies, and other opportunities in science.

The pairs often also attend lectures around campus featuring women faculty, tour the mentor's lab, visit the mentee's House, or simply chat over coffee in Harvard Square. Mentors are reimbursed for meals or activities that they attend with their mentee.

The 2008-2009 academic year showed continued participation and success for the Science Mentors Program; the program again included 51 undergraduates and 50 graduate students. The fall semester kicked off with an orientation event in October, allowing the women participating in the program to meet one another and learn more about the program. In February, mentors and mentees attended a luncheon and career panel held at the Harvard Faculty

Club which included four women at various stages of their science careers and who have utilized their science degrees in very different ways, including academics, consulting, and industry.

Evaluations are conducted twice annually to gauge participant satisfaction, and through this effort, it is clear that the Science Mentors program continues to effectively support young women scientists as a vehicle for career development, networking, and positive mentorship. In the words of one mentor, "It's been great to be a part of this program and meet and share in the lives of young women in science."



Science Mentors Program intern Breda Zimkus.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust Grants Program

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 addresses issues of importance to Harvard women.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust is primarily funded by the Houghton Endowment, which was established by a gift from Maisie K. Houghton '62 and James R. Houghton '58. The Ann Radcliffe Trust grant applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Women's Cabinet who make 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 information and to access the application, please visit our website at: <http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/annradtrust.html>. This year, \$22,404 in grants were made to 32 different student organizations.



Student political leaders Andrea Flores '10, Mary Cox '10, and Eva Lam '10 discuss the importance of women running for elected office at a Women's Week event funded by the Ann Radcliffe Trust.

Off the Page and Into the World: Women's Studies Course (WGS 1215)

After two years of planning, visioning, and logistical efforts, the Women's Center was proud to launch the new women's studies course, "Off the page and into the world: Feminist praxis in the community." This Harvard course, co-instructed by Deborah Cohan (Lecturer in WGS) and HCWC Director Susan Marine, involved students in meaningful, theory-to-practice based internships (for a minimum of 6 hours weekly) in local community agencies that serve the needs and interests of girls, women, and/or gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. These internships enabled students to apply feminist theory to real-life social problems and to understand the realities of how organized social change happens, including the ways in which community agencies with feminist goals are funded, managed, and regulated. The course also required students to apply relevant feminist theory to the implementation of a discrete, well-developed project in the community agency setting, to become part of a community of workers and volunteers, and to learn about community needs that drive the missions of these agencies. Finally, the course enabled students to advance their knowledge of the complexities of the intersection of identity/ies, ideol-

ogy/ies, and feminist praxis. For the Spring 2009 pilot of this course, four students enrolled, participating in work related to the support of LGBT youth at Project 10 East, to the empowerment of teen girls at the Boston magazine and mentorship program, Teen Voices, and to research a curriculum for high school girls' leadership development at the Cambridge Women's Commission. Students were positive about their experiences in the course, and agreed that it was an important experience to assist them in shaping their goals for work in non-profits geared toward feminist social change. Tara Venkatraman '11 wrote: "With its combination of hands-on service learning and rich discussions on the non-profit world, social justice, and feminist community work, WGS 1215 was by far one of the best courses I've taken at Harvard, one which directly impacted both my academic and extracurricular work, and one with direct application to my life and the world beyond Harvard." The course will be offered again in Spring 2010, instructed by Susan Marine, and will continue to be an important bridge for future collaboration and activity-based learning between the Women's Center and the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality.

Women's Leadership Conference

The Harvard-Radcliffe Women's Leadership Project (WLP), now in its 22nd year began with the vision of two undergraduates, Amy Zegart '89 and Meredith Lazo McPherron '89. Noting the absence of women in top-level positions in extra-curricular organizations and the unequal participation of women in class discussions, the founders were concerned about the scarcity of female leadership at Harvard-Radcliffe College.

The Project's founders responded by organizing the first Women's Leadership Conference in the hope that such an investment would eventually increase women's involvement in public life. The purpose of the WLP is to foster the effective leadership of a diverse group of primarily women students at Harvard. Aiming to impact both individuals and organizations at various developmental stages in order to nurture meaningful experiences on campus and beyond, the Project sponsors a weeklong conference in the fall.

Today the Women's Leadership Project is a powerful

symbol of women's achievement on the Harvard College campus. It has spawned a mentoring network for undergraduate women, a campus magazine devoted to gender issues, and a weekly email compilation of news, events, and fellowships as a service to nearly 1,000 Harvard women. For the thirty-five participants selected to attend the Conference each year, it creates both enduring friendships and a network of peers, administrators, faculty, and local and national leaders committed to the advancement of women. This network is maintained throughout the school year through special events, panels, and receptions.

The 22nd Women's Leadership Conference will be held from August 16-21, 2009 and features new programming that aims to further the development of its participants. This year's conference will feature some innovations to its structure, including: exploring the importance of self-care in being an effective leader, community-building through service projects, and pursuing one's passions, among other essential skills.



Students at a Women's Leadership Conference presentation.



WLP co-chairs MacKenzie Sigalos '10 and Andrés Castro-Samayoa '10 explain the goals of the Conference at the Women's Leadership Awards dinner.

Women's Network

HARVARD Kennedy School
WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

Committee on Degrees
in Studies of

Women
Gender and
Sexuality

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN AT HARVARD

The Joint Committee on the Status of Women

women's studies in religion program

HGWISE
Harvard Graduate Women in Science and Engineering

HCWC
Harvard College Women's Center
Creating Community

wlq

HARVARD UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
Faculty Development & Diversity

Did you know that there are initiatives and programs for women in almost every school at Harvard? When we at the Women's Center begin to realize this, we set about creating a way for all these important initiatives to come together, to network, and to build stronger alliances across the university. The Women's Network was born, and in its second year, continues to forge a solid connection point for these programs and initiatives. The mission of the Women's Network, which was developed by participants this year, is to "create meaningful connections among the many departments, initiatives, centers, committees, organizations, and institutes across the university that focus on women's and gender issues, to enable communication and collaboration among these groups, and to serve as both a sounding board for and platform for action

regarding women's concerns." In addition to clarifying our mission, we spent the year working together to streamline communications between and among groups with shared interests and to share information about our programs' missions and activities. Collaborative programming happened, too: the Faculty Development and Diversity office, in partnership with the Harvard College Women's Center, sponsored a dinner at the Radcliffe Gym entitled "At the Cusp of Change: Women Leaders at Harvard" (p. 23). Participants in the Women's Network will also be collaborating on the development of a comprehensive website in Summer 2009 which will feature information about all women's programs and initiatives at Harvard, along with ways to get involved in the continued work of supporting and advancing women in our community.

Ways to 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 organization, or Harvard office (see facing page). Please email hcwc@fas.harvard.edu to check the availability of our space!

Apply for a Mentor

The Radcliffe Mentor Program (p. 31) connects current Harvard undergraduates with alumnae mentors in a wide variety of fields. To apply for a mentor for the 2009-2010 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. The Science Mentors Program (p. 33) matches undergraduates interested in science with female graduate students in their field.

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 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 email mailing list 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 list!

Co-sponsor an Event with Us

If your student organization 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

This open group centralizes 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!

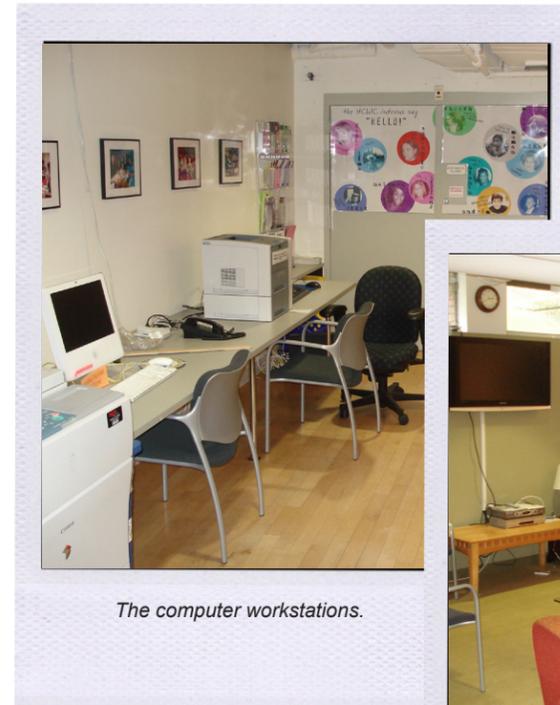
Nominate a Student for the WLA

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 2009. Nominations are due on Friday December 18th, 2009.

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 Welcoming Space



The computer workstations.



The conference room.



The Women's Center lounge.

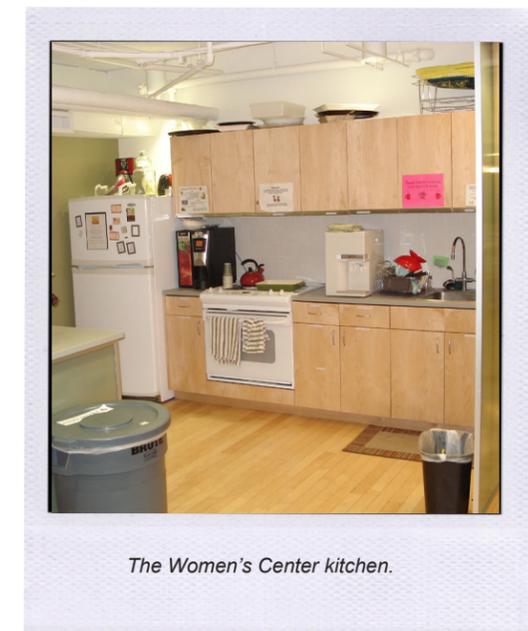
The Women's Center, located in the basement of Canaday B entry, offers many comfortable spaces for students and student groups. Our lounge has couches, floor pillows, and a plasma television and can accommodate up to 30 students. Our conference room offers a quieter space for students to study and hold meetings, and students are welcome to check email and print documents for five cents per page at our computer station.

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

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

The Women's Center also has a full kitchen that can be used by students, but we require a reservation in advance by emailing hcwc@fas.harvard.edu.

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.



The Women's Center kitchen.

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 all or part of the 2008-2009 year were: Bianca Caban, Andrés Castro Samayoa, Kameron Collins, Rachel Gholston, Gena Haugen, Morgan Haven-Tietze, Matthews Mmopi, Ridhi Kashyap, Kelsey LeBuffe, Lisa Miracchi, Eva Rosenberg, Shauna Shames GSAS, Zeke Smith, Ivy Wu, and Susan Yao. Next year, we are delighted to be joined by the following new interns: Lili Behm '12, Chava Kenny '12, Alice Laramore '11, and Becky Martinez '11.

If you are interested in applying for a Women's Center internship for the 2010-2011 academic year, please join our mailing list, through which we will announce application details in April 2010.



The student interns of the Harvard College Women's Center.



A Salute to our Graduating Interns



Bianca Caban '09
Bianca will work for an investment bank in New York City.



Kameron Collins '09
Kameron will study-English at Princeton.



Gena Haugen '09
Gena plans to work in New York City as a consultant.



Lisa Miracchi '09
Lisa plans to study philosophy at Rutgers.



Ivy Wu '09
Ivy is going to New York City to work in an investment bank.



Susan Yao '09-10
Susan will graduate after the fall semester, at which time she is considering teaching civics.

Full-Time Staff

Dr. Susan Marine, Director

Dr. 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.

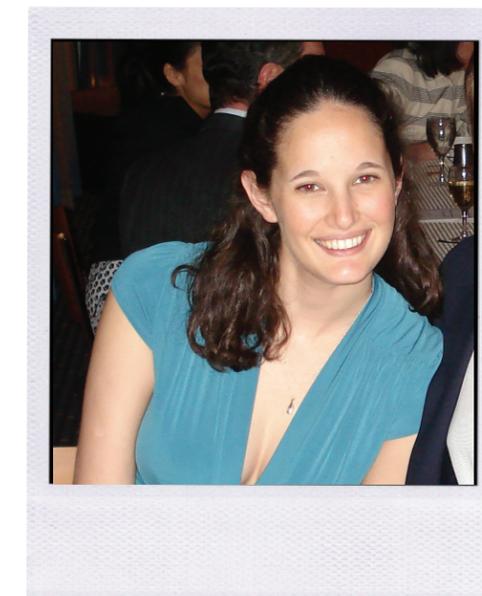
Susan hails from the great state of Indiana but now considers herself to be a New Englander for life. In her spare time, Susan teaches and advises students in WGS and has recently taken up the electric guitar.



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.

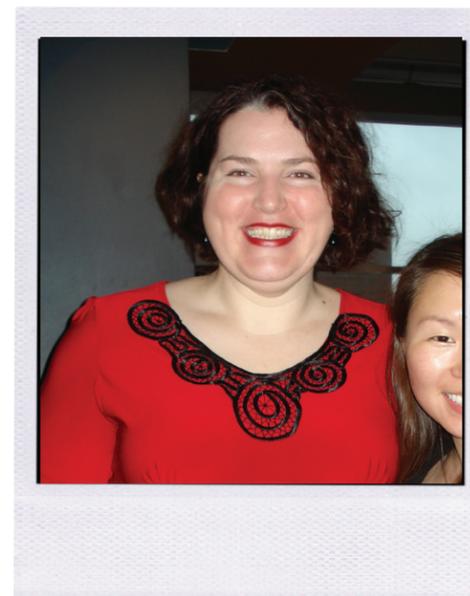
Originally from Bethesda, Maryland, Sandra joined the Women's Center staff after graduating from Harvard College in 2007, where she studied English literature and lived in Eliot House.



Bridget Duffy, 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. 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.





Creating Community
Harvard College Women's Center
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