



# Intersections

Newsletter of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at Macalester College

## Renovations: Re-envisioning, Re-Creating, and Reclaiming the WRC

By Margaret Kinkead, Anne Grossardt, Rena Dobervich, and Allison MacWilliams-Brooks

In the fall, the WGSS department kindly gave Feminists In Action (FIA) and Students Together Against Rape and Sexual Assault (STARSA) funds to go towards the reclamation and renovation of the Women's Resource Center (WRC). Naturally, they are beginning to wonder what happened to their money.

In order to quell the questions and concerns of the WGSS department – and the ensuing panic of students wondering what the Women's Resource Center is – we must announce that the WRC has not, yet, gone public. The funds, however, have allowed us to begin the realization of a much larger and grander dream.

For years, the WRC has been hidden in the basement of Kirk accessible only through a Macalester ID and a special key. The inside of the WRC has been littered with furniture rejected by other departments, helplessly outdated resources, several broken coffee pots, and a distinctly unappetizing smell. Rather than reflecting the needs of the Macalester student body, the WRC began to wonder where priorities lay in the various administrative and bureaucratic structures at Macalester. Schools ranking in similar settings as Macalester boasted not only fully equipped and open Women's Resource Centers, but 24-hour Gender Resource Centers as well. Centers that offered up-to-date information on the various facets and meanings of "being female" and what it meant to undertake, reject, confirm, or question "woman". Macalester students were only able to stare at a permanently locked door.

This does not mean that students were unwilling to find, update, or rebuild the space of the WRC. Rather, for many students the idea that they must re-create and re-envision the entire space on their own was rather daunting and, perhaps, intimidating. This year, with tremendous support from the community – and especially the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department – the members of FIA/STARSA are opening the door to the public. With a tentative opening date of later in the spring semester this new Center will hopefully provide multiple things to the community. While some of these assets will take longer than this semester to have available, we hope to have this space, at least, open for various consistent hours and to be able to provide a safe and inviting atmosphere. In our grander and more utopian ideas, however, our Center will include:

- a safe and comfortable space where students of all gender identities and non-identities can feel at peace with their own bodies, selves, and communities
- a space with relevant and current information on how to respond to various forms and types of sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment, and hate-related crimes
- a paid student worker who is trained in first-response to any and all of the above list of sexual abuse and rape situations as well as comfortable with handling the anonymity and privacy necessary to the WRC
- a new name that reflects the Center's purpose – to provide safety, community, and information not just to the classically defined "woman" but to all people regardless of biological differences.

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"We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity..."

— Frances Ellen Watkins Harper



- Literature and student workers who are informed and prepared to deal with issues of finding and creating community amongst this larger and more diversified group of Center users
- a space stocked with current and past media information on aspects of various gender identity issues including (but not limited to) health, legal issues, politics, self, theory, and fiction relating to identities--all of which will be available to the Macalester public through a library-style check-out system

This last item, media for the Center, will be where the majority of the WGSS funds will be filtered. While the experience of living can inform a responsive and receptive staff for the WRC, we feel that only through access to national, international, and local writings on various topics relevant to sex, gender, and sexuality (and what isn't?) will we be fueling and creating a Center that truly serves the Macalester community.

The Center...whatever its final name is...will hopefully be the first step in the much longer road of recognizing the needs of the Macalester students. While we are here for reasons relating to a capitalist economy (I believe it's called "getting a job"), we are here to inform our sense of self and to find ways of interacting, identifying, and forming communities that go beyond our individuality and speak towards a greater network of Being. The Center, in our utopia, will begin to place this search for self, this idea of the importance of education as a means of self-realization through a supportive community.



## WGSS Lends a Supportive Hand

By Jessica Mowles '08

With support from WGSS, I attended the Feminist Majority Foundation Global Women's and Human Rights Conference in Claremont, California as a representative of Macalester College and Oxfam America. My purpose at the conference was to absorb as much as possible to take with me back to Mac, where I would incorporate the new ideas and activism strategies I learned into my campus and community organizing for Oxfam. The conference was tremendously enlightening and inspirational; the speakers and other participants were intelligent and energetic, and I gained in-depth knowledge about current women's human rights issues from people who had experienced or intensively studied these crises.

The conference began with a dynamic presentation by FMF directors on the state of global family planning and how U.S. government policies have negatively impacted the health and autonomy of women all over the globe. Lawyer Julie Su also spoke about her successful representation of Thai women workers held captive in a sweatshop in California, and legendary activist Dolores Huerta related her decades of successful organizing and imparted advice for "the next generation" of activists.

Workshops on the globalization's unique impact on women, including issues such as trafficking, AIDS, sweatshops, reproductive rights, and environmental change, concluded the fun and informative weekend. By Sunday, I could explain and examine the specific causal factors behind the deteriorating position of women in our increasingly globalized world, had found new friends, allies, and activism methods, and was ready to wear my new, hot pink "This is what a feminist looks like" t-shirt in the airport on my way back to Mac.

# Alumni Shot-Spots

## Chris Jozwiak '00

I am a 2000 alumnus of Macalester, graduating with double majors in History and WGS and a minor in Sociology. I am in my final semester of law school at the University of Minnesota and I am the Executive Editor of the Journal of Law and Inequality. After the bar, I will start as an associate for Halunen & Associates, a boutique employment firm in downtown Minneapolis. We represent plaintiffs in claims of discriminatory treatment and wrongful termination by their employers. I am attracted to this area of the law because it engages my belief that employees should not be unfairly treated because of their race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, etc. These are values that were concretized throughout my education at Macalester, specifically with respect to my participation in WGS. My WGS professors and classes challenged me to write, speak and think critically. These skills have been indispensable in my legal education and will continue to be an asset throughout my career.



## Innumerable Lessons, Endless Gratitude

By Danielle Nelson '05

Since graduating last spring, I have been working part-time as Macalester's Scots Pride Coordinator - thanks to Kitty Harding ('04), who jumpstarted and re-established the organization before moving on to Washington, D.C. Scots Pride works to unite Macalester's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender alumni across the globe for fun, social events and networking. The group also seeks to support students, staff, and faculty through advancing a positive LGBT campus climate. Scots Pride strengthens the college's history and mission by enriching Macalester's diverse community and by fostering bonds between alumni and the campus. One of my main tasks while here is to organize with an alumni committee

Macalester's first LGBT Reunion, September 29-October 1, 2006. This position has given me the opportunity to learn and to celebrate all of the amazing work our LGBT alumni are doing in their communities. Check out [www.macalester.edu/alumni/scotspride](http://www.macalester.edu/alumni/scotspride) or call 651.696.6694 to learn more about how you can get involved in planning or to register for this landmark event.

The other half of my work week is devoted to my position as the Event Outreach Coordinator at the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus, a grassroots, multi-partisan organization of members throughout the state dedicated to increasing the number of women in elected and appointed office by identifying, recruiting, training, and supporting pro-choice women candidates.

My experiences in the WGSS department prepared me for these positions in innumerable ways. Most fundamentally, WGSS taught me that when working at either of my jobs, I am not focusing solely on LGBT rights or pro-choice politics. These organizations and issues do not exist in a bubble; I remind myself everyday that to make any kind of a dent I need to be thinking and working collaboratively and more broadly than the specific issue under which my organization was founded. While I have chosen to work with organizations directly related to a WGSS major, I feel prepared and excited to enter many different sectors and spheres as I move forward in my life.

Recently at a Macalester staff meeting Sonita Sarker gave a presentation on her research and the WGSS department. Hearing her speak with such passion for and pride in the work of her students, I had an epiphany: I have acquired a lifetime of debt to WGSS for making possible the many opportunities that have come my way, and for giving me another language through which to articulate my experiences and my location in the world as a queer, White, Western feminist (the list goes on). Of all the things in my life I could be proud of, being involved in this department with our intelligent students and passionate faculty is one of the things of which I am most proud.



# Women's History Month

Co-Sponsors: Community Service Office, Lealtad-Suzuki Center, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Campus Programs, Health Services, Biology, Feminists in Action, Students Together Against Rape and Sexual Assault, NARAL, and E-Funk.

## March 2006

**"Year of the Women"** ✨  
The "lost feminist movie," a full-length documentary set at the 1972 Democratic National Convention, considered the first ever film on the women's movement. Features cultural icons as Warren Beatty, Shirley Maclaine, Gloria Steinem, and Flo Kennedy.

**"Speak Out: I Had an Abortion"** ✨  
1.3 million women get abortions each year in the U.S. alone. For the most it is a secret. The debate itself is loud and paralyzing while the voices of women who get abortions are submerged. "Speak Out: I Had an Abortion," directed by Gillian Aldrich and co-produced by Aldrich and Jennifer Baumgardner, documents the stories of 11 women ranging in age from 21 to 85. The film cuts across race, religion, class, sexuality, and politics-- demonstrating that abortion affects all women. Q & A with Gillian Aldrich and Jennifer Baumgardner immediately following

**International Women's Day Celebration** - ✨  
KFAI proudly presents *Girls Go Global*, an evening of diverse performances by women artists to celebrate International Women's Day. The event will be hosted by KFAI radio personality Leigh Combs and will feature performances by Boston folk/soul songwriter Rachel Davis, hip-hop/spoken word artist Dessa of Doomtree, jazz vocalist Prudence Johnson, Eastern European dance band Orkestar Bez Ime, indie-rock band Aviette and Ojibwe musician Lyz Jaakola. There will also be dancing, comedy, local art, prizes and more. *Girls Go Global* is part of KFAI's 17th annual celebration of International Women's Day and will be broadcast live as part of its 24 hours of special women's programming. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, run the concession stand, and clean up after the show. Contact CSO (x6040) to sign up.

**"Making a Difference for Women in Africa: Global Reproductive Health and Obstetric Fistula"** ✨  
Speakers: Heidi Breeze-Harris, One By One Sarah Craven, UNFPA (Macalester Alum)  
Learn about obstetric fistula - a childbearing injury that affects over 2 million women - some as young as ten years old - living in the developing world. Obstetric fistula is at once devastating and yet is treatable and preventable. One By One is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to engaging people, mobilizing energy and resources, and distributing assets globally to treat and prevent obstetric and trauma fistula. They have raised \$140,000 in eight months from 26 states and 6 countries \$30 at a time. They are mobilizing students, professors, corporations, and the general public to offer resources and energy to help women with fistula. Come learn about how you can get involved and make a huge difference with a very small amount of effort.

**"Love, Labor, Loss"** ✨  
Love, Labor, Loss is an engrossing short documentary film about obstetric fistula and the important work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to end this tragic condition for women and babies.

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
				12:00-1:00 pm Soup & Substance "Longing to Tell: Sexuality in the Lives of Women", - Basement of Kagin Commons 6:30 pm - TAMPACTION 7:00-8:30 pm - Kagin Ballroom "Uncovering Activism in an Upside-Down World" A Conversation with Professor Rose Brewer		Van Trip to Coffman Plaza, to celebrate International Women's Day  7:00 pm JBD Lecture Hall ✨ "Year of the Women"
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2:00 pm JBD Lecture Hall "Year of the Women"	7:00 pm 4th Floor Lounge, Old Main Feminist Training with Jennifer Baumgardner and Gillian Aldrich	J & G Classes 12:00 pm, Cultural House Lunch w/Jennifer and Gillian (sponsored by LSC) 4:30 pm, Cultural House Grassroots Activism Training  7:00 pm, JBD Lecture Hall ✨ "Speak Out: I Had an Abortion"	International Women's Day  5:30-10:30 pm, Van Trip ✨ International Women's Day Celebration  7:00-9:00 pm, Kagin Ballroom Amnesty Event	7:00-8:00 pm, 4th Floor Old Main Teach In (title) - featuring individuals from Planned Parenthood and Family Tree	11:00-1:00 pm, Basement CC Tabling for Abortion Providers Appreciation Day --- come sign a card	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
← SPRING BREAK →						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		12:00-1:00 pm 4th Floor Lounge, Old Main History of Women at Macalester Lunch Series --- "Esther Suzuki Remembered Through Story"  4:30-5:45 pm, Campus Center 206 Meditation Series		12:00-1:00 pm, Olin Rice 250 Enviro Thursday Mary Brook - Speaking on Timber, Indigenous Rights, and Gender Roles in Nicaragua		10:30 am, In Front of Kagin Walk/Run to the river - water, hot cider, and cookies upon return
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1st
	12:00-1:00 pm, 4th Floor Lounge, Old Main History of Women at Macalester Lunch Series "Women's Struggle for Recognition at Macalester: Three Case Studies, 1893-1969." Jeanne Kilde, Carleton College	12:00-1:00 pm, 4th Floor Lounge, Old Main Info Session on Women's Advocates  11:00 am - 4:00 pm, CC Atrium Crafts for Women's Advocates --- come make baby hats and no sew blankets for the kids at Women Advocates		11:00 am-1:00 pm Campus Center Basement Letter writing campaign for Obstetric Fistula  7:00 pm, JBD Lecture Hall ✨ "Making A Difference for Women in Africa: Global Reproductive Health and Obstetric Fistula"	11:00 am-1:00 pm Campus Center Basement Letter writing campaign for Obstetric Fistula  7:00 pm, JBD Lecture Hall ✨ "Love, Labor, Loss" - (Tentative) By Lisa Russell and Governess Films	10:30 am - 12:00 pm 4th Floor Lounge, Old Main One-By-One Training --- Come learn how you can be an ambassador for One-By-One, and continue their grassroots work here in the Twin Cities