

The Women's Center

2003-2004 Annual Report

Our Mission:

The OSU Women's Center empowers and celebrates women in all their diversity and supports the achievement of their personal and professional goals by providing education, advocacy and a safe inclusive environment. The work of the Center is guided by an ethic of respect, care and excellence.

Our Vision:

Our vision at the Women's Center is to be a catalyst for equity and social justice for OSU, the Corvallis community and beyond.

- ⊙ Helping our students identify their personal values, be open and accepting of differing viewpoints, celebrating diversity
- ⊙ Empowering OSU community members to identify strategies for affecting positive change.
- ⊙ Generating information to raise awareness about campus climate, values, and practices.
- ⊙ Developing an environment at OSU where each student receives the support and nurturance necessary to complete their educational goals
- ⊙ Creating a campus environment free of sexual, physical and emotional violence

Our Values:

Respect for all members of our community

Care for all who seek resources, assistance, and support

Equity in opportunities without regard to gender, sexual orientation, class, ability, age

Excellence in all that we do

Successes:

AmeriCorps member, Jenny Mei, will head the Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) program at the Women's Center 2004-05.

Several grants were applied for. \$500 was received for sexual assault education and another \$5,000 is being considered.

Future goals:

- ⊙ Developing a comprehensive resource center on Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE)
- ⊙ Enhancing the profile of the Women's Center on campus; and establishing ongoing market research to determine student needs
- ⊙ Connecting with underserved student groups (international, first-year, non-traditional, student parents, and students of color)
- ⊙ Identifying potential financial resources through fund-raising and grant writing

Contributions to the Mission of Oregon State University

Value-added contribution to the OSU student experience

People who walk into the Women's Center get a sense of who and what we are. There are so many faculty who contribute to our programs and who speak positively about the Women's Center and we

have the potential to continue growth in both the quality of the student experience and diversity of the people whose lives we touch. We are excited about the future and enthusiastic about where we are headed.

The Women's Center experienced a phenomenal year of working with interns, practicum students, and volunteers who all contributed to our success. Past years had seen internships on average of two or three per year—and this year we had five interns winter and spring terms (and three in the summer). Volunteers numbered 24 for the year.

- ④ The invaluable learning experience that a student gets from researching, writing a proposal and seeing that proposal funded
- ④ The opportunity for a Chinese graduate student to develop a brochure for international women in 9 languages
- ④ The look on a volunteer's face when she is given ongoing responsibilities and is treated as a part of the student staff
- ④ The gratitude from a student parent who completes an internship compiling resources and website information for other student parents
- ④ The connections made with Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council to collaborate with the Women's Center on sexual assault education programs by a student intern
- ④ A doctoral student in Counselor Education conducted a needs assessment on sexual assault education programs and builds a bridge for the future Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) Program
- ④ Internships with students in Exercise and Sports Science and Human Development and Family Sciences are the first ever with the Women's Center and open up new opportunities for future students in these fields too collaborate with the Women's Center.

Volunteers Contribute to our Mission

Angi Baxter has been a valuable part of the Women's Center staff as a volunteer for the past three terms. She hasn't had the financial resources to enroll as an OSU student until this upcoming Fall Term. Angi is raising her eleven-year old and seven-year old daughters by herself and receives very little support. Because she has struggled for most of her life, Angie knows the resources available to our single parents, our welfare students, and our potential students who don't have the means to pay for a higher education.

Angi is one of the hardest workers I have ever seen. I may mention a project—and Angie is on it immediately. She loves working on the Women's Center scrapbook and keeping up on current issues. In fact, Angie is so much a part of what we stand for, I cannot imagine this space without her.

Parvathy Binoy and Claudia Garcia collaborated on an outstanding program for the Conference on Gender and Culture because they had a vision for making our community more aware of the violence against women that continues in the bordertown of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

It wasn't as if they didn't have many other things going on in their lives...Parvathy served as a senator for the ASOSU undergraduate senate and Claudia was in the midst of planning a National Conference for MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) to be held at OSU over Spring Break. Nevertheless, the two teamed up—Parvathy as a volunteer and Claudia as a staff member of the Women's Center and they found Diana Washington (reporter for the El Paso Times) and Irasema Coronado (America and Border Studies at University of Texas-El Paso) to talk about the murders of hundreds of women in Juarez. There were travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, publicity, fund-raising, contracts and all of the other things that go into planning an outstanding program. It came together without a hitch and not only did the audience learn a great deal, but Claudia and Parvathy received a huge education as well.

The AmeriCorps proposal that Cori Hall wrote has the potential to create real change at OSU in the area of sexual assault and violence education. "Although the idea behind doing a practicum is to fulfill competencies of CSSA that aren't met through assistantships and coursework, I feel that I have gained so much more than what can be expressed in competencies. The Women's Center is a place

where meaningful conversations can take place in a safe environment. The ability to be in this atmosphere has helped me to have confidence in other aspects of my work. Upon completion of my practicum, I also have a strong feeling of accomplishment after producing something that could create change that could have the ability to affect the greater OSU community.”

Data related to usage/impact

Major Goals for the Past Year:

- ❖ To continue to increase number of campus and community members served through outreach to first year students (through Odyssey classes), sorority women, women of color, and international women.
- ❖ To continue to do outreach and build bridges in the community and on campus (with Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence—CARDV, Corvallis Police, Oregon State Police, Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Services, University Housing & Dining, Minority Education Offices, Multicultural Affairs, Habitat for Humanity and Women Studies).
- ❖ To continue to expand our opportunities for assessment of services, programs, and needs of OSU students.
- ❖ To continue collaborative efforts with administrators, staff, and students to improve the physical safety of campus and the surrounding areas.
- ❖ To continue building community between and among our students through dialogue and advocacy.

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Comment: Instead of “client” a term that sounds more personal might be “campus and community members”

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Comment: no 's

Significant Outcomes/Accomplishments:

- ❖ Special programs/projects included: Graduate Women’s Network reception at the President’s home, “The Wall” on Women in the Supreme Court;
- ❖ The 2003 Conference on Gender and Culture included two evenings and two full days of events. The Feminist Film Festival ran in conjunction with the Conference. Barbara Ehrenreich, Difference, Power and Discrimination Distinguished Lecturer, was the keynote speaker of the Conference and drew an over-flow crowd of over 1400 (filling the Austin Auditorium, Construction & Engineering Hall and necessitating a set-up in the lobby. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Convocations and Lectures Committee.
- ❖ Women of Achievement awards were presented to Anne Gillies, Linda Klinge, Judith Li, Makiko Matsumoto, and Annie Popkin for outstanding efforts to improve the status of women at OSU, in Oregon, nationally and internationally.
- ❖ W.I.R.E. (Women’s Intra-Campus Resource Exchange) was published three times during the school year and included articles by OSU faculty, Women’s Center staff and interns, and included Women’s Center photographs.
- ❖ The Women’s Center had several volunteers throughout the year who helped with special events such as the Clothesline Project, the Wall, flyer posting, and several held regular volunteer office hours during the year.
- ❖ “The Vagina Monologues” was produced by the Student Health Services Peer Health Advocates, CARDV and the Women’s Center. Over 2,700 people saw the show. After

expenses were paid, 50% of the proceeds—approximately \$5,000—went to CARDV. Students and faculty combined their talents for one of the best productions ever presented on the OSU campus.

- ❖ The *Campus Safety Survey* was conducted spring term
- ❖ Women's Center assessment projects continued to be a priority this year. There have been regular program evaluations, a satisfaction survey conducted every year in February and a Needs Assessment survey sent out at the end of spring term.
- ❖ The Women's Center website was redesigned and we have developed the capacity to update it on a regular basis.
- ❖ The Women's Center library online search engine has been made more accessible.

Significant Growth/Change Accomplished:

- ❖ Several groups, including the Rainbow Continuum, the English Language Institute, Queer Resource Center Advisory Board, Women's Center Advisory Board, WRENCH, Alpha Xi Delta, Diversity Development, Dean of Students Office, President's Commission on the Status of Women, ASOSU, Student Parent Association, QRC Advisory Board, Psychology Society, Philosophy Club, Panhellenic Council, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, BeaverChat.com, Faculty Women's Network, Women in Science and Engineering, Graduate Women's Network, and Students for Choice used the facilities for regular meetings, special events, and organizational meetings. Departments using the Women's Center this year include: Industrial Engineering, School of Education, College Student Services Administration, Intercollegiate Athletics. Community Groups using the Center include: Parent Enhancement Program, Planned Parenthood
- ❖ This was the third year the Queer Resource Center (new name at of June 2004: Pride Center) shared a space with the Women's Center. Overall it was a very successful partnership and brought new participants to both spaces.
- ❖ Participation decreased somewhat from last year's total 10,714 to 9,593. Numbers for each term are as follows: Fall term— 3,414 (2,494 women, 920 men) compared to 2,432 in 2001. Winter term—2,300 (1,794 women, 506 men) compared to 4,029 in 2002. Spring term—2,294 (1,623 women, 671 men) compared to 4,253 in 2002. Summer term—1,055 (797 women and 258 men) participants at the Women's Center.
- ❖ About 20 Odyssey first-year classes met at the Women's Center during Fall Term, 2003.

Programs sponsored by the Women's Center this year and the attendance figures are as follows:

Fall Term 2003

Women's Center Open House—50
Healthy Start—10

Graduate Women's Network Reception (at President' Ray's house)—50
Magnificent Magnets with Connie Folse—18
Fight Like a Girl with Shay Mooster—31
Stress Management co-sponsored with the Graduate Women's Network—9
Women Who Dared—8
Queer Ally Building—10
Public Policy—15
Poetry Jam—20
Wok-Life Balance with Anisa Zvonkovic (co-sponsored with the Graduate Women's Network)—8

Winter Term 2004

WomenWho Dared: Deepsea Dawn (Dawn Wright)—8
Women in the PeaceCorps—45
Beating the Blues—8
Queen-Sized Revolution: Fat-Phobia 101—35
Sex Q & A with Kathy Greaves—12
Healthy Relationships—11
Size Up Your Breasts—28
This is What a Feminist Looks Like—11
Fight Like A Girl—14
Poetry Jam II—10
The Politics of C.R.A.C.K.—9
Women's Health Series: Being Safe Between the Sheets—3
Student Parent Forums—12
International Women's Panel—10

Spring Term 2004

Improving the Status of Women in Science in Southern Africa with Linda Mantel, former National President of AWIS (co-sponsored with WISE)— 25
Woman Inspired Reception for Artists— 30
Woman/Lawyer?— 6
Can I Be a Feminist and...Shave, Eat Meat, Date Men or Be Religious? (co-sponsored with Women Studies)— 85
Healthy Meals in a Snap— 20
Faith and Feminism— 10
Let it All Out: Relaxation Techniques—15
Living Well Now and Later with Ann Marchant—7
AmeriCorps Information Meeting—5
Naked Lady Party (clothing exchange)—5
Poetry Jam III—5
Local Women's History with Cheri Galvin, Senior Development Manager for the Trillium Children's Farm Home—3
Marching Home: A Recap of the March for Women's Lives with Connie Folse, Amanda Gzik, Jen Robinson and Betu Herrera-Idica—12
Magnificent Magnets with Connie Folse—7
Feminism 101 with Janet Lee, Melanie Love, Christian Matheis and 15
Coming Out: Queers and Allies—
Sex Signals (co-sponsored with UCPS, Greek Life, et al.)—550
Women of Achievement Awards—90

Significant Involvements by Director, Staff and Volunteers

Beth Rietveld's involvements in 2003-2004 were as follows:

- Interim Director of Student Involvement 1/1/02-12/31/03 including supervision of professional and student staff members, management of programs and services, marketing for department, and liaison to OSU community <http://oregonstate.edu/studentinvolvement/>

- Supervisor of programs, services, staff, and support offered through the Women's Center <http://oregonstate.edu/womenscenter>
- Ex officio member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women (Parity Report Subcommittee) <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/pcosw/>
- Secretary-Treasurer and Interim Chair of the Faculty Women's Network <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/fwn/>
- *Coordinator the State of Oregon*, American Council on Education Office of Women in Higher Education <http://acenet.edu/programs/owhe/>
- Planning Committee for Oregon Women in Higher Education Conference <http://owhe.org/>
- Member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators <http://www.naspa.org/>
- Member of the National Women Studies Association <http://www.nwsa.org/>
- OSU Sexual Assault Response Network <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/counsel/sass.html>
- Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force Campus Response Committee <http://www.oregonsatf.org/>
- Instructor for Women Studies 399 Women in Leadership <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ws/>
- Faculty Senate Diversity Council (Initiating Campus Climate Study in Fall, 2003) <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/senate/committees/div/>
- Difference, Power and Discrimination Program Advisory Board <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/dpd/>
- OSU Child Care Liaison with KinderCare and Growing Oaks Child Development Center <http://oregonstate.edu/childcare/>
- Child Care Advisory Committee
- Child Care Friend Raisers

Debi Stabler's involvements were as follows:

- Coordinated annual [Conference on Gender and Culture](#)
- Graduate student in the [College Student Services Administration](#) program
- Member of the [Sexual Assault Response Network](#)
- Member of the [Student Recognition and Awards Committee](#)
- Women's Center Advisory Board Chair
- Instructor for ALS 114 (Career Decision-Making)
- Intern, Dean of Student's Office
- Co-Convener, OSU Student Life Design Team
- Member of National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (attended NASPA conference, April, 2003)
- Member National Women Studies Association

Other staff members were involved as follows:

- **Rachel Becker**—Speak Up! (co-founder); Hillel
- **Jessica Bowron**—Delta Gamma sorority (Director of Philanthropy); Panhellenic Council (VP Judicial); MLK Planning Committee; President's Commission on the Status of Women; Policy & Law Society; Economics Club; ASOSU Judicial Board
- **Jane Clark**—ASOSU Judicial Board; University Honors College Steering Committee; Mortar Board; Habitat for Humanity (project in Ulan Ude, Russia); AFL-CIO Union Summer Internship
- **Connie Folsie**—Benton County Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition; Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
- **Claudia Garcia**—MEChA
- **Amanda Gzik**—KBVR-FM disc jockey; International AIDS Awareness Day Committee; Rainbow Continuum, QRC, Women's Affairs Task Force Volunteer
- **Jessica Havstad**—Career Assistant at Career Services; English Student Association
- **Jen Robinson** – Dixon Lodge resident (Secretary for Executive Board)

Interns and practicum students for 2003-04 included: Melanie Love (breast cancer education, resource files), Annette Martel (Co-Coordinator of the Conference on Gender and Culture), Stephanie Strowbridge (marketing & liaison with Intercollegiate Athletics), Amanda Wittman (oral history of the Women's Center), Cori Hall (AmeriCorps application and special event research), Tracy Klemme (child care resource development), Cynthia Briggs (sexual assault needs assessment), Angela Sanderson (student parent resource development), Trish House (program research), Yiyun Jie (Women's Center brochure in nine languages, program on international women), Megan Sundahl (sexual assault website development), Aimee Christie (child care website expansion, consumer guide to child care), Erika Condos (Greek Life liaison on sexual assault programs, marketing)

Ongoing volunteers included Parvathy Binoy and Angi Baxter as well as many one-time volunteers and activism project students.

Major Challenges for the Coming Year

- ❖ Spread the word about opportunities at the Women's Center and make students more knowledgeable about what we have to offer.
- ❖ Utilize faculty, administrators, local business leaders in getting support and presenting educational programs for the Women's Center.
- ❖ Train student staff and advisory committee members to be great contributors.
- ❖ Increase the financial resources available to the Women's Center. The 2002-2003 budget was increased slightly to cover more student employee pay, but pay rates are still well under those in comparable positions. Finding grant funding and continued efforts to strengthen the student fee funding of the Women's Center are goals for the future.
- ❖ Work to support and build the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program with the assistance of faculty, graduate students and undergrad students in all fields relating to engineering and science.
- ❖ Continue to build the Graduate Women's Network for the ongoing support of new and returning graduate women.
- ❖ Work toward the establishment of a university-wide "consensual relationship policy" with the goal of reducing or eliminating negative impacts to participants in consensual relationships between individuals of disparate power levels.
- ❖ Address the challenges presented by the OSU 2007 process. In order to "equalize" the Women's Center and the cultural/resource centers, there has been some discussion of removing the full-time position from the Women's Center rather than improving the cultural/resource centers by adding FTE to them. Staff members look forward to the opportunity to participate in meetings to decide the future of the Women's Center.

Major Initiatives for the Coming Year

- ❖ During the 2003-2004 school year the Women's Center hopes to expand our intern and volunteer base to include a diverse group of people interested in working on women's issues.
- ❖ To promote the services and resources available at the Women's Center to all students through Odyssey classes, Barometer ads, displays, etc.

- ❖ To provide educational outreach and women's workshops on leadership, self-esteem and communication skills.
- ❖ To increase the Women's Center foundation account through active fundraising, grant writing and public relations campaigns.

Results of Women's Center Assessment Activities

The Women's Center engages in continuous assessment of its programs and services. At the end of the academic year a Needs Assessment survey was sent out randomly to 1000 students and a second survey was sent to over 800 "friends of the Women's Center." (See attached needs assessment report.)

We have a compilation of our program evaluations for the past several years. Every February we do an assessment of our facility and services that is given to those who come in the Center throughout the month. The results of the most recent survey are listed below:

Women's Center Satisfaction Survey- February/March 2004

We ask for your assistance in our continuing efforts to improve the services that the Women's Center offers. Please fill out the following survey, use the back if you need more space, and return it to the drop box on the Women's Center front desk. Please fill out this survey only once. Thank you for your feedback.

N= 27

Age:

- 20-1
- 21-2
- 23-1
- 24-2
- 26-1
- 29-1

Sex:

- Male - 2
- Female - 5
- Unknown - 2

Ethnicity/Race:

- Caucasian/Native American - 1
- Caucasian/White - 5

Sexual Orientation:

- Heterosexual - 4
- Unknown - 2
- Lesbian - 1
- Gay - 2

Do you live (circle one) on-campus, off-campus in Corvallis, beyond Corvallis city limits, or at a sorority or fraternity?

- On-Campus: 0
- Beyond Corvallis city limits: 2
- Sorority or Fraternity: 0
- Off-Campus in Corvallis: 7

Are you (circle one) staff, graduate student, undergraduate student, faculty, or community member?

- Undergrad: 7
- Graduate: 1
- Faculty: 0

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- Staff: 1
- Community member: 0

Do you visit the women's Center to (circle all that apply)?

- Visit the QRC - 5
- Talk with friends - 9
- Gain Support - 1
- Study - 4
- Library - 1
- Resources - 2
- Use the computer - 7
- Use the kitchen - 6
- Attend one-time special event - 3
- Attend meetings/programs

Do you have any suggestions for improvement at Women's Center?

- Free coffee
- More of Everything
- Be open later hours at night
- More music
- Have boxes of tissues

Pleas list other reasons why you visit the Women's Center.

- Relax
- Discuss issues
- Get information

What programs, events or workshops Could the Women's Center offer that would benefit you?

- Feminist allies
- Cross-cultural relationships

- Have debates
- Good reading material
- Comfy Couches
- Programs
- Have coffee
- Make copies
- For free condoms
- For non-lubricated condoms
- Work at QRC
- Debi is nice

Summary of the State of the Women's Center

Current Condition? The Women's Center is positioned to move into new levels of excellence in both programming and outreach. The facility is a valued resource on campus that continues to gain acknowledgement. The quality of programs, newsletters, public relations, services, and resources has increased greatly this past year and we are very proud of what we have to offer.

What Needs to Happen to Promote Continued Growth? The budget needs to grow to keep up with inflation, and to allow us to bring in speakers with some name-recognition. Many students do not know about the Women's Center or have misperceived notions about who we are and what we do. To promote growth, the word needs to get to all corners of campus, especially groups that typically do not use our facility, such as Greeks and students of color.

What are Obstacles? By not having a full time director located at the Women's Center since January, 2002, there have been some difficulties and frustrations for the staff as well as for the participants and visitors who use the Center. Fewer faculty utilized the Women's Centers programs and resources during the two terms that the Director was absent from the Center. Faculty, classified staff and non-traditional students are less likely to share their concerns with student staff members who are typically much younger than they are.

The only other obstacles that exist for the Women's Center at the present time are getting people to know that the Women's Center exists (we are making rapid improvements in this) and keeping up financially. We have done wonders with volunteers and will continue to rely on volunteer help – but it is important to be able to pay student employees who do the programming, newsletter writing, outreach, at a rate comparable to other, similar positions on campus.

What are Causes for Optimism? Having author, Barbara Ehrenreich as keynote speaker for the 2004 Conference on Gender and Culture is a coup and will hopefully draw people to our other programs and sessions.

People who walk into the Women's Center get a sense of who and what we are. There are so many faculty who contribute to our programs and who speak positively about the Women's Center and we have the potential to continue growth in both the quality of the student experience and diversity of the people whose lives we touch. We are excited about the future and enthusiastic about where we are headed.

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Comment: utilized Women's Center programs and resources