



Many Voices

Fall, 2009

A newsletter of the University of St. Thomas
Luann Dummer Center for Women, the
University Committee on Women, and the
Women's Studies Program

CommUNITY series Kickoff

Donna Brazile

Monday, September 21, 2009

6:30 - 8:15 p.m.

OEC Auditorium



The Office of Institutional Diversity, with co-sponsorship from the Luann Dummer Center for Women, will be hosting Donna Brazile on September 21, 2009 from 6:30 - 8:15 p.m. (5:30 p.m. Reception) in the OEC Auditorium on the St. Paul Campus. This will be the kick-off event for this year's CommUNITY series. The first African-American to direct a major presidential campaign, Donna Brazile is an author, educator and political activist. She is an Adjunct Professor of Women and Gender Studies at Georgetown University, a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN's The Situation Room and Election Coverage. In this presentation, she will highlight why social and intellectual consciousness helps to build respect in different environments to

include the academy, social and political arenas.



News from Women's Studies

This will be another exciting year for the Women's Studies program. We are offering excellent cross-listed courses in a variety of disciplines, including Modern and Classical Languages, Communication and Journalism, English, Biology, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

As Director of Women's Studies, I am very happy to be attending the National Women's Studies Association conference in November. The conference theme is "Difficult Dialogues," and is the only annual meeting in the United States that is exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship. I am most looking forward to the pre-conference, which focuses on program administration and development. As this is my last year as director, I hope to learn more about challenges and opportunities facing other programs, so that I am better able to pave the way for a smooth transition to a new director of our program.

Thanks to the leadership of Women's Studies major Amanda Sesker, UST has submitted paperwork to have our own chapter of Iota Iota Iota, the Women's Studies Undergraduate Honor Society. Contact Amanda Sesker (aasesker@stthomas.edu) if you are interested in learning more about Triota.

As always, feel free to contact me with any Women's Studies questions, concerns, or suggestions. Stop by my office for a "Changing Lives — Changing the World — Women's Studies" button!

Angela High-Pippert
Director of Women's Studies
405 JRC
651-962-5725
ahighpippe@stthomas.edu



Organist Rachel Laurin Coming to Campus



Internationally recognized organist and composer, Rachel Laurin, will be performing on campus November 19 at 8:15 in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas as part of the Sacred Arts Festival this Fall. In conjunction with her performance, the Women's Center will host a lunch time discussion with the artist at noon in the Center.

We will listen to recorded clips of her music and have a chance to meet this extraordinary woman artist.

A Canadian organist and composer, she received her education at the Montreal Conservatory, where she became the pupil and disciple of her principal teacher Raymond Daveluy, also an organist and composer. She has won many

awards including the Holtkamp-American Guild of Organists Composition Competition in 2008. Although she has been Titular Organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa, she now primarily devotes her time to organ recitals, compositions, lectures, and master-classes. She is in great demand for improvisation teaching. She has performed organ recitals not only in Canada, but also in the United States and Europe. Her approximately fifty compositions have been recorded and performed in major cities in the United States, Europe, Asia, and South Africa.

Among her upcoming commissions is a work for harp and organ for the AGO 2010 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Washington, DC.



Notes from the Director



Global Women's Rights

This summer I had the opportunity to introduce the Women's Center to our students in the REAL program, a six-week academic orientation program for newly-admitted UST students of color,

asylees, refugees and permanent residents. I initiated the session by asking the students two questions that I often use in class. Are you feminist? Why or why not? Their answers were similar to those I find among other students. While they accept that women and men are equal deserving of things like equal pay for equal work, unbiased access to health care, and mutual respect for achievement, they felt that women in the United States had achieved these goals and so feminism was no longer necessary.

I then asked them a different question. If I were to grant you that women in the U.S. are equal (a point to which I returned later in the session), did they feel that women around the world had achieved the same equality? And, if not, did we have a responsibility to women globally? Of course, they understood the implications of the questions, which led to a very rich discussion.

I start my column this way, because this year our March speaker will address global women's rights, a theme that will carry through many of our other programs. We are delighted to be hosting Mary Robinson, the first female president of Ireland, on March 1, 2010. While she is important simply for her role in Irish politics, we have invited her for a different reason. Since leaving office, she has worked tirelessly for human rights. In addition to chairing The Council of Women World Leaders, she is currently president of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative. One of the four main principles of this organization is that it, "embraces the importance of gender and the need for attention to the often different impacts of economic and social policies on women and men." You can learn more about this group on their website: <http://www.realizingrights.org/>. We have asked her to talk about the global impact of the recent economic crisis on women and children.

Several of our Feminist Fridays will address global women's rights. In October, Dr. Jill Manske will speak about women's global health. In November, with the help of staff at CILCE

and Service Learning, we will host a panel of local refugee women who will share their experiences and insight. In the spring Dr. Tisha Rajendra, who recently defended her dissertation on Catholic teaching regarding immigration, will explore the issue through a gendered lens. We will also be co-sponsoring an art show by local Muslim women artists in conjunction with an international art show by Arab women artists titled "Breaking the Veil" coming to the University of St. Catherine later in Spring.

In addition to these activities, we will continue other projects that the Center supports. Our first Feminist Friday comes out of our involvement on the Sexual Violence Prevention Programming Committee, in which one of our members commissioned Dr. Tim Scully's class to produce public service announcements on acquaintance rape. Later in the year, Personal Counseling had his class produce announcements related to body image. We will view these student productions and hear about what the students learned in this process.

Over the summer the Center co-sponsored a retreat (with the President's Office and Faculty Development) for female faculty in response to the most recent climate study that indicated this population was one for which the campus climate remains chilly. One of the strongest messages from that session was that women wished there were more opportunities to simply meet each other, and "network" socially. As part of this effort, we will continue with Lunch at Luann's on Wednesdays. It is meant as a temporal and local space for informal conversation, mutual support and lively conversation. Anyone is welcome. Just bring your lunch and join in.

I've added a new "fun" event that I stole from the Women's Center at St. Cloud State. We are going to kick the year off with a "Chocolate Reception," an open house with special treats. Stop by to enjoy some chocolate and say hi to old or new friends.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year. I hope it is one that sees economic healing globally, and virtual healing through health care reform that serves all members of our community. I hope it is a year that brings many of us together to realize our shared concern for the well-being of women, and other vulnerable members of society, throughout the world.

— Corrine Carvalho



Summer Retreat

This summer, 20 female faculty gathered for a retreat centered on the book *Challenges of the Faculty Career for Women: Success and Sacrifice* by Maïke Ingrid Philipsen. The day began by dividing into small groups based on where people were in their careers. Using the questions that the interviewer used in her book, each table discussed the challenges they met here at UST. They also shared what things helped them succeed and sometimes flourish in their jobs. After lunch the group as a whole talked about how we can be mutually supportive of each other and how we can improve the climate for female faculty at the University.

The responses to the day were even more positive than the organizers had hoped. It was clear that many of us found sharing across disciplinary and college lines beneficial. As a more “seasoned” faculty member, I was struck by what my younger colleagues needed. I hope they found some words of wisdom from their older colleagues about how to negotiate various responsibilities at home and at work.

Most of the women at the retreat talked about the difficulty of maintaining a balance between work and personal or family life. For those with family responsibilities, whether that was child care, elder care, or maintaining a healthy relationship with a partner or spouse, the reality is that either job or family could consume infinite amounts of time. This leads to the prominent feelings of guilt and inadequacy. Those without traditional families found it difficult to establish healthy boundaries because of a pervasive assumption that they had infinite amounts of time to give to work.

Most women cited not just supportive family members, but also supportive colleagues and supervisors as the primary mechanism that allowed them not only to survive, but often to thrive. In light of that, many of the newer women, especially those from out of state, expressed a desire to make more campus connections with other faculty women, both formally and informally.

In light of that, we will hold our first no-host happy hour for female faculty on September 25 starting at 4:00 PM. We will meet by the shuttle bus on the Minneapolis campus, and walk to Brit’s Pub for food and fun. If you can’t be there at 4:00, simply meet us later at Brit’s. This is open to all female faculty, whether or not they attended the retreat.

The input from this event will be brought back to the Affirmative Action Committee in order to respond to the various suggestions for improving the climate for female faculty. Watch for updates in the near future.



News from the UAWWE

The University Advocates for Women and Equity will hold its annual fall meeting on Friday, October 9, from 3-5 pm in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103). The agenda includes an open discussion of concerns on the part of members of the wider St. Thomas community, as well as elections of members to serve on the executive committee.

Over the summer, the UAWWE, in conjunction with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Programming Committee, expanded its project of providing brochures of interest in restrooms on campus. Now brochures are found in men’s restrooms as well as in additional women’s restrooms. We welcome input on our “bathroom brochure” project!



What's Happening at the Center

We welcome you to any or all of our programs and co-sponsored events. See the LDCW website for information on additional events and activities. (All events held at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

- Sept. 17 Chocolate Reception and Open House, 3 - 4 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Donna Brazile, opening speaker for the CommUNITY series, 5:30 reception, 6:30 talk, OEC Auditorium
- Sept. 25 Feminist Friday, "Involving Students in Public Service Campaigns on Campus: Positive Body Image and Sexual Violence Prevention," panel discussion, noon
- Sept. 25 No-host happy hour for female faculty, Brit's Pub, Minneapolis, starting at 4:00
- Sept. 30 Lunch at Luann's book group: *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer, noon
- Oct. 9 Feminist Friday, "Born a Girl: Issues in Global Women's Health," Dr. Jill Manske, Biology, noon
- Oct. 9 UAWE meeting of the full membership, 3-4 PM
- Oct. 22 Rape, War and Augustinian Notions of Radical Evil, discussion with Theology on Tap and Justice and Peace Studies, 5:30-6:45, Koch Commons
- Oct. 28 Lunch at Luann's book group: *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, noon
- Nov. 9 Rachel Laurin, organist and composer for the Sacred Arts Festival, noon discussion, LDCW. Evening performance, 8:15, St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel
- Nov. 13 Feminist Friday, "Realities of Refugee Women in Minnesota Today," a panel discussion, noon
- Dec. 2 Lunch at Luann's book group: *Lambs of God* by Marele Day. Noon

Feminist Fridays Fall 2009

- Sept. 25 Panel: "Involving Students in Public Service Campaigns on Campus: Positive Body Image and Sexual Violence Prevention"

To increase student awareness of positive body image and sexual violence prevention, Student Affairs staff from Campus Life and Personal Counseling collaborated with Dr. Tim Scully's videography students to create public service announcements. Join Tim Scully (COJO), Deb Broderick (Personal Counseling), and Jese Ledbetter (Campus Life) for a screening and discussion about student perspectives of these topics and the benefit of involving students in public service campaigns.

- Oct. 9 Born a Girl: Issues in Global Women's Health
Jill Manske

In most countries across the world women live longer but with a lower quality of life than men due to unequal access to information, care, and basic health practices. In this talk we will explore the condition of women's health across the world.

- Nov. 13 Panel: Realities of Refugee Women in Minnesota Today, a panel discussion
This panel, arranged by the Office for Service-Learning and CILCE (Center for Intercultural Learning and Community Engagement), will bring together local refugee women to share their experiences in Minnesota.



Upcoming Events for Spring

- March 1** March Women's History Month
Speaker, Mary Robinson, first female president of Ireland, "*The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on Women and Children*"
7 p.m., OEC Auditorium
- March 25** UAWE reception for new faculty and staff and celebration of achievements of women faculty and staff, McNeely 100, 3-5 PM

- April 16** Lecture by the artist, Nada Shabout, in conjunction with the art show, "*Sabeel: The Road Between Tradition and Progression*," by Arab American artists that runs from March 8 - May 24 at the University of St. Thomas and the international, "Breaking the Veils: Women Artists from the Islamic World," at the University of St. Catherine, Feb. 6-Apr. 1.
- April 26** Take Back the Night Rally



Lunch and Books

Lunch at Luann's invites faculty, staff and students to join us for brown bag lunch on Wednesdays at noon. Come on time, come late, leave early, stay until we kick you out...we'd love to see you. Don't wait for a program announcement, and don't be embarrassed if you won't know anyone. Corri and Pat are always there ready to extend a hearty welcome.

What is "Lunch at Luann's"? It's simply a time for informal conversation, and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with old friends. If you'd like to eat somewhere other than at your desk, even if you can only squeeze in 30 minutes, come on by!

Once a month we have a discussion of a book that several of us choose to read. The schedule of discussions for this year is:

- Sept. 30** *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer
- Oct. 28** *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout
- Dec. 2** *Lambs of God* by Marele Day

But if you haven't read the book, if you've only gotten through the first page, if you've only seen the movie or read the blurb in Wikipedia, come anyway.

So if you haven't gotten the message yet, we'd love to see you at lunch on Wednesdays. Let's make the Women's Center the place for social interaction like Luann Dummer herself dreamed it would be.



Rape and War

Join the Luann Dummer Center for Women, the Sexual Violence Prevention Programming Committee, the Justice and Peace Studies program and Theology on Tap on October 22 for a discussion of rape and war. We will view documentary film clips and then discuss this universal phenomenon as an example of radical evil. Set within the context of the theology of St. Augustine, we will explore what this sad fact tells us about human sinfulness.



Everyone invited to Yarn Tamers get-togethers

Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues and socializing. Newcomers are encouraged to stop by and join in the fun.

Each year the group works on a service project with materials funded by a small grant from the Women's Center. During the Fall 08 semester they crocheted and knitted squares that were sewn into seven afghans. Six of these afghans were donated to Alexandra House in Blaine which provides a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Another afghan was given to

UST's University Relations Office to include with their donations for a family they adopted for the holidays.

Yarn Tamers meets on Mondays from noon - 1 p.m. in Room 103, OEC in the Luann Dummer Center for Women.

Anyone can come to Yarn Tamers, even if they don't have knitting or crocheting experience. There is no formal registration; interested people can just show up to a meeting.

Contact: pmalexander@stthomas.edu.



Mary Robinson cont.

Broadening her international scope, President Robinson expands her leadership into other areas including business enterprise, corporate citizenship, and the broad reform of some of the world's most prestigious organizations. She serves as Vice President of Club of Madrid, working to promote democracy worldwide. In business, she is one of five prestigious board members of the Mastercard Foundation, a newly established independent foundation focusing on microfinance, youth entrepreneurship and education. President Robinson was recently appointed to the UN Global Compact Board, a group of 20 global business, labor and social leaders working to advance ten universal business principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption for this large voluntary corporate citizenship initiative. With her emphasis on making human rights the compass which charts a course for globalization that is fair, just, and benefits all, she retains a high visibility on pressing issues such as global health, the battle against poverty, and supporting microfinance in many nations.

Robinson recently became a member of The Elders, a group of world leaders who contribute their wisdom, independent leadership, and integrity to tackling some of the world's toughest problems with the goal of making the world a better place. This group of luminaries was founded by Nelson Mandela, Graca Machel, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Based in New York, her work with Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative is supported by a partnership with the Aspen Institute, Columbia University (where

she is a professor of practice) and the Swiss based International Council on Human Rights Policy. Its goal is to bring the norms and standards of human rights into the globalization process and to support capacity building in good governance in developing countries. The recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout the world, President Robinson is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and the American Philosophical Society and is Honorary President of Oxfam International. She also serves on many boards including the Vaccine Fund, the Global Commission on Migration, the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights, and the International Commission of Jurists.

Educated at the University of Dublin (Trinity College), King's Inns Dublin, and Harvard Law School to which she won a fellowship in 1967, she holds honorary doctorates from over 40 universities around the world, including Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Oxford, Cambridge, London and Edinburgh. Continuing her educational experience, she now serves as Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria, South Africa as well as a Council of Goodwill Ambassador.

As an academic, legislator and barrister, she has always sought to use law as an instrument for social change, arguing landmark cases before the European Court of Human Rights as well as in the Irish courts and the European Court in Luxembourg. In 1988, Robinson and her husband, Nicholas Robinson, founded the Irish Centre for European Law at the University of Dublin, since then, she has been Chancellor of the University.



The Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on Women and Children

Mary Robinson, first female president of Ireland



March 2010 Women's History Month Speaker

Monday, March 1, 2010

7:00 pm

OEC Auditorium

Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland and formerly the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has spent most of her life as a human rights advocate and is a world leader who puts her humanity very much at the forefront of her politics. She now chairs the Council of Women World Leaders and is President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative. She has been named a "Hero and Icon" as one of Time magazine's 2005 top 100 men and women whose "power, talent or moral example is transforming the world." In 2006, President Robinson received Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Award in Social Sciences prize for her work as a global human rights campaigner, singled out for her "moral strength," her defense of "ethics in the field of politics and academic research," and her "tireless efforts to bring about a world without borders."

Mary Robinson continued on page 7

LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN

Hours: M - F 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Staff: Corrine L. Carvalho, Director
Pat Alexander, Administrative Assistant
Betsy Corr, Student Assistant

Telephone: (651) 962-6119
From this number you can access hours and leave a message.