Women’s History Month Speaker: Dr. Haleh Esfandiari

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is happy to announce the upcoming Women’s History Month lecture, “The Women’s Movement in Iran and the Middle East,” which will be delivered by Dr. Haleh Esfandiari on Thursday, March 6, in the OEC Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Esfandiari, an Iranian-American scholar, writer, and outspoken advocate for human rights and women’s rights, has witnessed and participated in the unfolding of Iran’s last half-century of history, while studying the conflict-laden relationship between the U.S. and Iran. In her talk, she will interweave her personal experiences with a political history of modern Iran and the Islamic Middle East, addressing their current situations from an international feminist perspective.

Born to an Iranian father and Viennese mother in 1940, Esfandiari grew up speaking Persian, German, French, and English. Educated in the arts and journalism, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Vienna and worked as a reporter, translator, government official, and professor in Iran. She met and married a Jewish reporter and scholar, Shaul Bakhash, a convention-defying act for a Muslim woman. Amidst the uncertainty of the 1978 Islamic Revolution, Esfandiari and her husband left Iran and settled in the U.S., where she began teaching Persian language and literature at Princeton. Since 1995, she has worked at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., serving as its Director of the Middle East Program for almost 20 years, facilitating forums where scholars and Middle East policy makers exchange ideas.

— continued
Young-ok An, Director’s Note:
The Importance of “Inter-” in the “International Feminism and Div

While Dr. Esfandiari was still in Iran, she served as Deputy Secretary General of the Women’s Organization there. She continues to be, in her words, an “unrepentant feminist.”


In 2007, Dr. Esfandiari was imprisoned by Iranian authorities after visiting her mother, and spent eight months under arrest, nearly four of them in solitary confinement. Her memoir of the ordeal, My Prison, My Home (2010), portrays her love of homeland and affection for family, particularly her mother (“Mutti”), while documenting how her integrity, self-discipline, and vigilance helped her endure repeated interrogations and a frightening incarceration.

To prepare for Dr. Esfandiari’s lecture, we will host two discussions at the LDCW (OEC 103): special book discussion, Tuesday, February 25th (noon to 1:00 p.m.); regular book club discussion, Wednesday, February 26th (noon to 1:00 p.m.)

During our time at the University, what are our aspirations for higher learning, and how can we at the LDCW work towards achieving them? This is a big question, one which President Julie Sullivan addressed in her 2013 inauguration speech: “Meeting the Age’s Call: Rooted in the First Century, Reflective of the 19th Century, and Relevant to the 21st Century.” In this speech, as in her November UAWE lecture on women’s leadership skills, President Sullivan emphasized the importance of a leader having the ability to synthesize diverse skills and knowledge to develop a wide, global perspective.

In modern-day life, we often take a fragmented, compartmentalized approach to our work and learning.

We increasingly specialize. Thus it takes deliberate, sustained efforts to look more broadly at ourselves, our society, and the world as a whole. Not only is this ability to synthesize varied information and multiple perspectives required of true leaders, as President Sullivan has noted, it is integral to other qualities we work to instill at UST: a passion for lifelong learning, a desire to pursue the common good, and a determination to create lasting change. To facilitate the growth of leaders who exhibit a broad understanding, we encourage, at the departmental and college levels, interdisciplinary studies, programs, and activities that generate interconnections.

This year’s theme at LDCW, “International Feminism and Diverse Women’s Life-Writing,” aims to help university citizens broaden their horizons and interconnect their paths to knowledge. The books we’ve chosen for our book club this year correlate with this theme, spanning continents and ethnicities. In addition, our Yarn Tamers successfully promoted awareness of the “International Day against Violence against Women.”

Working with various branches of the University, such as Student Diversity and Inclusion Services (Roxana Saberi’s lecture), International Student Services (The “Islam: Way of Life” lecture series), and the Murphy Institute (The “Feminism, Law, and Religion” conference), the LDCW is keen to promote the intersection between feminism and international perspectives. When the Advisory Board of the LDCW exam-
internal conflicts, it observes other Middle East nations attempting to democratize—the entire region becoming ever so important in world politics and the search for peace.

Esfandiari’s extraordinary memoir, *My Prison, My Home* teaches us a great deal about Iran, while standing as an exemplary interdisciplinary text. Feminist concerns and aspirations run through the work, while addressing various topics in the subjects of history, politics, journalism, economy, women’s issues, criminal justice, psychology, theology, literature, Justice and Peace studies, and much more.

**Esfandiari is inspirational as a scholar, moderator, analyst, and a teacher. Her courage and integrity under fire, her perseverance, knowledge, and discernment, her disciplined body and mind, and her devotion to her family offer us a moral compass.**

Esfandiari’s lecture will illustrate the importance of the “inter-” in our yearlong program.

And it will provide a wonderful occasion for us to come together and think about how to meet the age’s call as citizens of the world.

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**Feminist Fridays**

**Talks for the Spring**

**February 18:** Prof. N. Curtis LeMay (“Curt”), the Library Director / Theological Librarian of The Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library

**Title:** “Mariology”

*Mariology* is the study of the two-thousand-year-old Roman Catholic tradition of devotion to Mary. Using historic images, the talk will deal with the life and role of the Virgin Mary as well as her veneration throughout the ages in theology, prayer, hymns, art, music, and architecture. Particular attention will be paid to the social justice themes in Mary’s Magnificat, which proclaims the justice and love of God for the poor and the fight against injustice and oppression.

**April 18:** Two UST students will address their experiences and views on women’s empowerment

**Titles:**

Melissa Seymour, “Creating Female Force”

Hadeel Hafiz, “On Saudi Women”
Mark your calendars! The Women’s Studies Program has many events planned for Spring 2014.

**Student Conference**
The consortium of Women’s Studies programs of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (including Augsburg, Hamline, St. Kate’s, and St. Thomas) will hold its annual student conference on April 11, 2014, 3–8 p.m. at Augsburg College. Students who have written papers on issues of concern to women are asked to consider reading them at the conference. Attending the conference is a great way to meet students with similar interests, get experience in an academic conference setting, learn from others, and share your own knowledge. Submit an abstract of your paper to Dr. Susan Myers (semyers@stthomas.edu) no later than March 14. (Students do not have to be Women’s Studies majors or minors to read a paper or to attend the conference.) The keynote speaker of the conference is Prof. Richa Nagar from the University of Minnesota. Dinner is provided. Bring a friend!

**Faculty Book Discussion**
A group of faculty from the ACTC Women’s Studies programs will gather on April 16 at a local restaurant to discuss Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean In, as well as bell hooks’s response to the book. Faculty, please consider attending this community-building event!

**Women’s Studies and LDCW Speaker**
The Women’s Studies Program, with the support of the Luann Dummer Center for Women, is excited to bring a nationally known speaker to UST to enrich and enliven our program. Michele Berger, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will meet with WMST faculty and students over the lunch hour on Thursday, May 1 to discuss ways to strengthen the program, and will give a public lecture later that evening. In addition, she will conduct a workshop for junior and senior WMST majors and minors entitled “Transform Your World” that teaches students how to communicate their work and knowledge to potential employers and others.

**Triota**
Plan to attend the November 2014 National Women’s Studies Association conference in sunny San Juan, Puerto Rico! Consider submitting a paper proposal (faculty or student; it is not necessary to be a member of NWSA to submit a proposal) by Feb. 20. Some funding is available to support attendees. Contact Dr. Susan Myers (semyers@stthomas.edu) for more information.

Watch also for discussions of the history of the Women’s Studies program at St. Thomas, the 2013 National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, and other items of interest for our program.
This past November 7–10, 2013, partly funded by the LDCW’s “Small Grant,” I participated in the NWSA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, along with two undergraduate scholars, Morgan Schreurs and Elizabeth Phyle. The theme for this year’s meeting was Negotiating Points of Encounter, which provided presenters with an increased opportunity for interdisciplinary connections. I especially enjoyed papers that addressed the intersection of Native American and Women’s Studies, including one on Kateri Tekakwitha, a seventeenth-century Mohawk woman recently canonized a saint by Pope Benedict XVI. The paper argued that the canonization became a Native act of decolonization when, uninvited, hundreds of Pan-Indian peoples sang the Catholic ceremony in Tekakwitha’s own Mohawk language and created an altar of indigenous items in the middle of the church.

While Morgan, Elizabeth, and I didn’t know each other well before our trip, by a few days in we found ourselves passionately discussing points of encounter within the UST environment and brainstorming ways of making campus more open to all. Responding to my paper, “Uniforms of Power: Women Athletes, Radical Fashion, and Financial Autonomy” and my upcoming English 341: Women, Sport, and the Body in literature, Morgan brought up the possibility of creating a more welcoming space in the Anderson Athletic & Recreation Complex (AARC) for those UST students, women and LGBTQ students in particular, who might be intimidated by an architecture that seems to promote ogling of those working out. Before the end of the day, an email discussion was underway with others in the UST Women’s Studies community to make this idea (hopefully) a reality.

Attending the conference with undergraduate students reminded me of the enormous benefit of collegiality at all levels and that we always have the ability to teach and inspire each other.
In 1900, a battle raged—even as it does today—about whether photography is as high an art form as painting and sculpture. From 1902-1917, renowned photographer and leader of the American avant garde, Alfred Stieglitz, published, edited, and produced the foremost photography journal, Camera Work. Stieglitz and his many followers staunchly believed that not only could photographs hold their own, but that they often surpassed the goals of any painting or sculpture. The 97 artists chosen to display their work in CW became leaders in redirecting photography from a hollow documentation of life to a statement about the meaning of art in life. Over the years, eight women photographers (along with one female painter) were eventually included. My research focuses on the women’s contributions to photography, the reasons each woman was included in CW, the originality of each artist, and the links between them.

Samantha J. Wisneski, “Identity, Desire, and the Female Body in Amrita Sher-Gil’s Oeuvre”

My research focuses on the Indo-Hungarian painter Amrita Sher-Gil (1913-1941), commonly known as “India’s Frida Kahlo” and generally regarded as one of India’s key progenitors of modernism. Sher-Gil occupies a complicated, fascinating position in Indian cultural memory. Educated at the renowned École des Beaux Arts, she followed a path of her own, rejecting the male-dominated artistic scene in India and seeking to create a new, female voice in Indian art.

2013 Award Recipients

- The LDCW Undergraduate Research Fellowship: Samantha Wisneski, Majors in Art History and Communication & Journalism; Minor in American Culture & Difference, “Identity, Desire, and the Female Body in Amrita Sher-Gil’s Oeuvre” (faculty advisor: Kanishka Chowdhury); Lindsey Landgraf, Major in Social Work: “Girls’ Thoughts on Clothing Today” (faculty advisor: Ande Nesmith).


- Women’s Studies Fellowship: Morgan Schreurs, Majors in Political Science and Women’s Studies; Minor in English.

- Women Connect Scholarship: Catherine Huss, Majors in Catholic Studies and Apparel Design.
Sister Pat Kowalski Women’s Leadership Award: This award honors a student and an employee (staff or faculty) of St. Thomas who have distinguished themselves through their work on women’s issues. The employee award rotates among exempt staff, non-exempt staff, and faculty; the 2014 award will be given to a member of the St. Thomas faculty. Commemorating the leadership of Sister Pat Kowalski, the award recognizes those who demonstrate (1) clarity of vision through insights into the needs and aspirations of women at the University of St. Thomas; (2) courage of convictions through an ability to speak and act; (3) generosity of spirit through leadership by example, encouraging others to see that working on behalf of the women of St. Thomas may be a source of joy and life.

Good Sister Award: This award recognizes those whose readiness to help and support women on campus, formally and informally, goes beyond the ordinary. Each year the award may honor both a student and an employee (staff or faculty), and may be given either to an individual or to a group of women.

Pauline Lambert Award: This award recognizes a St. Thomas woman who has taken initiative in challenging problems that exist around gender issues on the St. Thomas campus. Each year one student and one employee (staff or faculty) may be selected. The recipient will have identified a gender-related problem on campus and worked toward rectifying it.

Sapienitia Award: Co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Department and the Luann Dummer Center for Women, this award recognizes a student and a faculty or staff member who has produced an outstanding scholarly or creative work focused on women or a concern related to women. The work must be original and recent, and it must (1) respond to systems that oppress women or highlight empowerment of women and (2) critically examine forces that shape the situation of a woman or women. A copy of the scholarly work or documentation of the creative work should accompany the nomination.

For any questions about the nomination process, contact Dr. Susan Myers or any member of the UAWE Coordinating Council. Members of the UAWE Council are not eligible to receive the awards. They include Young-ok An, Beth Bergfield, Sarah Churchill, Vanessa Cornett-Murtado, Liz Dussol, Sue Focke, Amy Kritzer, Susan Myers, Eva Porter, Mary Ann Ryan, Marjorie Siegel, Patricia Satzer, Michelle Thielen, Elizabeth Wehner, and Sheneeta White.

Awards will be presented at the UAWE Spring Reception and Awards Ceremony, April 10, 3:30-5:00 pm, McNeely 100, on the St. Paul campus.

Dr. Ande Nesmith, faculty advisor to Lindsey Landgraf, reports:
Concerned about the increasingly sexualized clothing available to young girls, Lindsey is conducting a study examining the relationship between teenage girls’ clothing choices and their sense of confidence. Lindsey invited high school girls from a local private Christian school, Hope Academy, which caters to at-risk underprivileged children, to participate in focus groups. The girls’ response was huge—she had more girls interested than she could accommodate. Before Lindsey left for India, she had finished the last focus group, transcribed the audio recordings, and had a plan in place for conducting thematic analysis while out of the country, using printed copies of the transcripts. I have read one of the focus group transcripts and can attest that she will have some fascinating results to report this spring on this important topic.

Arts, Sher-Gil returned to India at 21 and became fascinated with the downtrodden people of India. Her early paintings are romantic depictions of emaciated men and women against flat backdrops. A shift occurred midway through her career when she appropriated the abbreviated syntax of miniature paintings to create sexually-charged compositions of women confined to domestic existence, like Woman Resting on a Charpoy and The Swing. These paintings achieve a great poignancy as she attempts to demonstrate the relationship of woman and national space. My research interrogates the relationship among Sher-Gil’s identity, desires, and the subaltern women she spent her short life painting.

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I came to the University of St. Thomas in 2009 knowing this would be a place where I could thrive as an academic and as a person. The collegiality I felt when I interviewed at UST was amazing. I knew this was the place for me and my family. There have been some adjustments to living in Minnesota, especially when it comes to surviving the winter. I was born in Shreveport, LA, where the majority of my family still resides. After living in Minnesota for several years, I still get asked about snow on a daily basis. My response is always the same “Yes, we are getting snow – it’s winter.” The Southerners can’t seem to wrap their heads around that concept.

Here is a little bit about my road to UST. I obtained my undergraduate degree in computer science from Xavier University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA) in 1998. Upon graduation, I went to work for IBM in Raleigh, NC, as an IT specialist. While working at IBM, I obtained my MBA from North Carolina State University. Although I had a seven-year tenure with IBM, I never felt fulfilled. I had a strong desire to serve the greater good. I decided to go back to school, again. This time I started a doctoral program at Virginia Tech. I finished my degree in 2009 and moved to Minnesota to start my new life as an academic.

I am an assistant professor in the Operations and Supply Chain Management department. I teach primarily in the undergraduate program in the Opus College of Business. I love teaching undergraduates. It excites me when I see that they get it. I can always tell when something I said resonates with them and they start to have a better appreciation for the subject matter. Also, when my students land their first internship or their first jobs it is so fulfilling for me as a professor. I try to create a relaxing and welcoming environment in my classroom, so that the students feel that they are in a safe learning environment. It is definitely my privilege to teach at St. Thomas.

Since becoming a part of the UST community, I have joined the University Advocates for Women and Equity (UAWE). This UAWE gives me the opportunity to be around like-minded women all focused on a common cause – equity for women. I am also a member of the Opus College of Business – Strategic Planning Committee and the Committee on Teaching Evaluation at the university level.

Now, I am in my fifth year at St. Thomas, and it has been a wonderful experience. Everyone is so kind and passionate about this university. I am truly blessed to work at such a terrific place.

**FemCom Update: A Time of Transition**

*Morgan Schreurs; FemCom Facilitator; Women’s Studies and Political Science Major, English Minor.*

Just as an individual grows and changes, so, too, does a group of individuals. We, the student group The Feminist Community (FemCom), experienced a period of development and transition Fall Semester 2013, when a feeling of disjuncture began to creep into where there had once been an overwhelming feeling of hope, safety, and connection. We worked quickly (and continue to work) to address that feeling by redefining who we are and what our mission is as a feminist group. Part of this includes redefining our feminism and feminist agenda as wholly transformative, inclusive, and intersectional, something we weren’t finding in a simple adaptation of popular/mainstream feminism. Furthermore, we found that we believe more in feminisms than feminism - meaning that one’s feminism is individualistic in its ideals, objectives, and methods and that these differences are not bad, but beautiful and legitimate.

Outreach remains a major component of our work. In early Fall, we distributed our declaration “Goodbye to All That - St. Thomas,” making contact with new students and spreading the word about how to make our campus a better, safer place (see the LDCW website and the Student Initiatives tab for more info.). We also served as a co-sponsor for several events, including Tommie Talks and International Day of the Girl.

As we gear up for second semester, our activist agenda will focus on trans-inclusion and combating cissexism, as well as consent education. We will also continue to build coalitions and provide event support for other groups on campus with feminist goals. FemCom is very much looking forward to our annual spring events - The Clothesline Project and Take Back the Night. Check back on the LDCW website later this winter for specific event information.
Report from USTAllies

January Workshop in Transgender 101: The “T” in LGBT

Ashe Allan, Student – Justice & Peace Studies Major
Laura Noppe, Student – Graduate Student in Leadership in Student Affairs
Prof. Carey Winkler, MSW, LICSW – Director of BSW Field Education & Clinical Faculty, School of Social Work

The Allies Committee and the Luann Dummer Center for Women sponsored Transgender 101: The ‘T’ in LGBT on January 17 in the Anderson Student Center, presented by Ashe Allan, Laura Noppe, and Carey Winkler. Approximately thirty students, staff, and faculty attended from both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. Some of the topics covered by this introductory training were terminology, privilege, and current issues as they pertained to transgender people as well as how to sensitively and meaningfully interact with transgender students on the St. Thomas campuses. Highlights for participants included real life examples, correct pronoun usage, exploring cisgender* privilege, the opportunity to think about intersectionality, and how these issues manifest in our campus community. We are very grateful to the campus community for their support and interest in the topic, and we plan to follow this training up with a brown bag discussion to offer time for questions and further dialogue. To schedule a training for your department, workgroup, and or student group please contact Carey.

*Cisgender: When the way you conceive of your gender agrees with the assignment you received at birth. In other words, when your gender aligns with your biological sex.

Angela High-Pippert’s Project for Women Faculty Leadership Council (WFLC) and LDCW Research Grant

This research project, Creating a Place: Women’s Studies at the University of St. Thomas, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I am grateful to the UST Women Faculty Leadership Council Steering Committee Members, as well as the Luann Dummer Center for Women, whose generous support allowed me the time to engage in this research. This report highlights the significance of particular women leaders on the development of the UST Women’s Studies program, as well as the significance of the Women’s Studies program on the development of women leaders at the University of St. Thomas.

My multi-method approach includes an analysis of internal documents from UST Women’s Studies Program files and ACTC Women’s Studies Program files, as well as documents from a variety of sources from University archives. While memos, meeting agendas and minutes, program reports, strategic initiative proposals, and Aquin articles can provide important perspectives on the development of the UST Women’s Studies Program, this report includes the voices of former Directors and Associated Faculty in Women’s Studies who shaped the program over the years. I conducted and analyzed ten intensive interviews with leaders within the UST Women’s Studies Program, including former Directors of Women’s Studies (Ann Johnson, Jill Manske, and Sherry Jordan) and long-standing members of the Women’s Studies Advisory Committee and Associated Faculty in Women’s Studies (Corri Carvalho, Cathy Craft-Fairchild, Meg Wilkes Karraker, Debra Petersen, Brenda Powell, Buffy Smith, and Mark Stansbury-O’Donnell).

Creating a Place: Women’s Studies at the University of St. Thomas tells the story of how the Women’s Studies Program was established, noting highlights from each Director’s tenure and the unique role that the Luann Dummer Center for Women has played in contributing to the mission of the Women’s Studies Program. The report then weaves together the individual stories from each of the interview participants, building on the following four themes: (1) involvement within the Women’s Studies Program, with particular attention to those who have directed the program, (2) leadership style, (3) community, highlighting the role of informal mentoring within the program, and (4) impact of the Women’s Studies Program on the University of St. Thomas.

Report on the First Tommie Talks

Morgan Schreurs, FemCom Facilitator & LDCW Student Assistant

The vision of the Luann Dummer Center for Women includes providing opportunities for students to interact with women role models, as well as serving as a meeting place for women to share their expertise and experience. On October
1, the LDCW hosted our first annual Tommie Talks, a speed-mentoring event for women, to do just that. Tommie Talks is designed to be supportive, educational, and dynamic so women are able to make crucial professional connections, learn new ways to succeed, and foster meaningful partnerships. Mentors are UST alumnae or faculty/staff, and mentees are current students. Tommie Talks participants are provided with a unique opportunity to ask questions in an intimate setting about the unique rewards, challenges and benefits of a woman in the workplace, while simultaneously building a greater sense of UST community across generations.

We had a great first turnout. Along with 40 student mentees, the LDCW staff recruited an array of 14 mentors from various age groups and professions, all with a UST connection. Students thoroughly enjoyed the event and left with some great tips on how to excel and navigate potential challenges in the workplace. Evaluations of the event contained much positive feedback, including many versions of: “Do this again!” Next year, we hope to recruit an even more diverse pool of mentors and several more mentees, as well as further streamline the speed-mentoring process. Look for the 2nd Annual Tommie Talks announcement in the Fall 2014 edition of Many Voices.

Report on The Butterfly Project
Susan Anderson-Benson and Jessie McShane

In the November selection for the LDCW book club, In the Time of Butterflies, Julia Alvarez writes of the 1960s’ brutal murder of three sisters attempting to help overthrow the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. The date of the sisters’ murder, November 25th, has been declared by the U.N. “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.” Alvarez asks her readers to wear a butterfly during the month of November to promote awareness of that day.

This past fall, the LDCW book club teamed up with the Yarn Tamers and hand crocheted (thanks to Susan Anderson-Benson) over 300 purple butterflies, used as pins, to help raise awareness of violence against women. We experienced the generosity of students, faculty, staff, and community members who bought butterflies, some stopping at the table set up at the Minneapolis campus by Paddy Satzer, associate director of the Law Library and member of the LDCW advisory board. The LDCW matched the $436.60 we raised from the Butterfly Project, giving us a grand total of $873.20. Right before the holidays, three members of the Yarn Tamers brought the money to the Alexandra House for Battered Women in Blaine, MN. The staff there was incredibly grateful.
After news of the Butterfly Project appeared in the Newsroom, a colleague of one of the Yarn Tamers told of her time at Alexandra House—how the staff had helped her and her children stay safe and get on with their lives after years of domestic abuse. This reinforced for those involved with the project how domestic abuse can touch anyone, anywhere and why it’s important for us to support efforts to curb it, and to help those affected by it.

Defining Community Broadly

Dr. Mary E. Knatterud (LDCW Book club member, Associate Professor for the University of Arizona in Tucson)

This particular lifelong Protestant is elated—and astounded—to have found such a welcoming space at the University of St. Thomas: specifically, in the Luann Dummer Center for Women’s monthly Book Club. I have lived nearly my entire adult life in St. Paul, always within a couple miles of this campus, but, until joining the Book Club last year, had not enjoyed any direct ties to this university. Granted, beginning in fall 2002, I had relished Parents Day meals and classes in nearby rooms with my niece, as well as her many wondrous choir concerts in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas. I had also endured her unique, headline-grabbing May 2006 commencement ceremony, sullied by a student speaker who insensitively inveighed against birth control and unwed couples, sending many graduates off the stage in tears (and waking up my dozing husband!).

In addition, my daughter, now in college in Iowa, had taken several courses as a temporary Tommie during her senior year of high school. And two of my cousin’s kids came here for their bachelor’s degree. I myself had been asked to teach a technical writing course here a few years back, but was too busy to seriously consider it.

The Book Club has gifted me with my first regular chance to savor this surprisingly eclectic and ecumenical community firsthand. Its Christianity-bred, creamy-brick architecture is nostalgically evocative of my similarly hued alma mater, Concordia College in Moorhead: just walking from my parked car down Cleveland Avenue toward Summit transports me back to my heady undergrad years, so full of social and intellectual fervor. Coming full circle, our January 2014 author, Roxana Saberi (albeit of Japanese-Iranian ancestry, in contrast to my Norwegian heritage), also grew up in Fargo-Moorhead and also graduated from Concordia, where she, too, was assigned to read Viktor Frankl’s Man’s Search for Meaning, as she alludes to in Between Two Worlds.

Luckily, the Luann Dummer Center defines “community” broadly enough to include intrigued neighbors like me. I was invited to come by Barbara Foster Tribble, PhD, a longtime adjunct professor at St. Thomas—and my first full-time boss (back at the University of Minnesota in the early 1980s) and, more important, my forever friend. My inaugural Book Club meeting was in February 2013 and I have rarely missed one since. As a telecommuter for the past 5-plus years (working from my Hamline-Midway home as an associate professor for the University of Arizona in Tucson), and now as an empty-nester mom, I guess I truly crave community. Once a month, in the OEC, I truly find it, in the form of real-time, face-to-face, back-and-forth human conversation about fascinating works of fiction and nonfiction. I didn’t even stay away the week I was literally struck dumb with laryngitis due to my accidentally triggered cat allergy; Book Club members seated near me kindly took pity on my voicelessness and read aloud, to everyone else, several of my scrawled comments.

During the 2013-14 academic year, our Book Club’s focus has been on the lives of internationally mesmerizing women, as captured in their own memoirs or as conjured by history-minded novelists. The settings of these diverse books span the globe: France, Senegal, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Iran, Egypt, Japan, Zimbabwe, North Dakota, the Bronx. Most of the women spotlighted in this year’s reading list were, or are, real people, from the 12th-century nun Hildegard von Bingen and the three Mirabal sisters martyred in 1960, to the very-much-alive scholar Haleh Esfandiari (our Women’s History Month speaker in March 2014) and Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor. All of their riveting stories are brought to new life in our circle of Book Club participants, where our comments and questions reinforce the interconnected community we each are an integral part of, within the Twin Cities and far beyond.
Student Services announce the Diaper Changing and Lactation Spaces.

Diaper Changing Stations

There are convenient diaper changing stations in the Anderson Student Center. They are located in both the women’s and men’s restrooms on the first and third floors of the building. Parents can also use the family room on the second floor of the student center by reserving the space through Tommie Central.

Locations for nursing and pumping

On the Saint Paul Campus, there are a few places where nursing mothers have been comfortable nursing their children and pumping milk.

• The Family Room in the Anderson Student Center, which is designed specifically for this purpose. For access, visit Tommie Central on the first floor of the building.

• The women’s restroom on the first floor of John Roach Center just outside of JRC 126.

• TMH 438 is no longer available.

Questions? Contact Off-Campus Student Services: www.stthomas.edu/offcampus/parents/

On the Minneapolis Campus, there is a room available for mothers to use for lactation located in separate space in back of the women’s restroom on the lower level of the law school (L16). It is a small room, but private, with a locking door. It is equipped with a comfortable chair, cabinet/side table, fold-down diaper changing table, and small refrigerator.

UAWE member, Sue Focke, recommends the Art History Exhibit at the OEC lobby throughout the Spring Semester:

The exhibition, “Botanical Art in All Its Wonder,” in conjunction with the Sacred Arts Festival, features the work of seven Minnesota artists who specialize in the depiction of plant forms. The pieces, both 2- and 3-dimensional, expand the definition of botanical art from exacting replicas of fauna (Sandra Muzzy, Anna Rosenthal), to oversized photographically rich flowers (Charles Lyon), to moody, complicated prints (Stephanie Hun- der), realistic horticulture set as design problems (Marian-Ortol Bagley) to bead and felt works (Jo Woods), and fused glass (Nancy H Seaton). The display case at the LDCW contains a few small drawings by Anna Rosenthal, a sopho-more.

Shelly Nordtorp-Madson, Chief Curator and Clinical Faculty in Art History, oversaw the mounting and arrangement. The exhibition, free and open to the public, is on display January 13-May 24, 2014. A reception will be held Saturday, April 26th, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the OEC lobby gallery.
Spring 2014 Calendar of Events

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

Jan. 29 (W) ▶ LDCW Book Club, *Between Two Worlds* by Roxanna Saberi, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Feb. 14 (F) ▶ Happy Valentine’s Day! Open House / Chocolate Reception, 2:00-3:30 p.m. (TMH 450)

Feb. 21 (F) ▶ Feminist Friday, Prof. Curt LeMay, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Feb. 25 (T) / Feb. 26 (W) ▶ LDCW Book Club – Discussion of *My Prison, My Home*, by Haleh Esfandiari, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 (TH) ▶ 2014 Women’s History Month Speaker, Dr. Haleh Esfandiari Reception with WMST faculty and students, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Public lecture, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Mar. 19 (W) ▶ LDCW Book Club, *Cairo: My City Our Revolution*, by Ahdaf Soueif, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Mar. 20-21 ▶ “Feminism, Law, and Religion” Conference, Minneapolis

Apr. 10 (Th) ▶ UAWE Spring Reception, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. (McNeely 100) UST Allies Day of Silence/Night of Noise, 5:00 p.m. (Location TBA)

Apr. 11 (F) ▶ Feminist Friday, Melissa Seymour and Hadeel Hafiz, Noon-1 p.m. (OEC 103) ACTC Women’s Studies Conference, 3:00-8:00 p.m. (Augsburg)

Apr. 14 (M) ▶ SDIS Speaker, Roxanna Saberi, 7:00 p.m. (ASC)

Apr. 24 (Th) ▶ FEM/COM Clothesline Project and Take Back the Night (Lower Quad)

Apr. 30 (W) ▶ LDCW Book Club, *A Tale for the Time Being*, by Ruth Ozeki

May 1 (TH) ▶ Dr. Michelle Berger, Public lecture, 7:00 p.m. (JRC 126)

May 2 (F) ▶ Dr. Michelle Berger, WMST Students Workshop, (location TBA)

May 9 (F) ▶ LDCW Grant Recipient Reception, Noon-1 p.m. FEM/COM Mother’s Day Luncheon, 3:00 (Location TBA)

May 24 (W) ▶ LDCW Book Club, *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor
Contact: 
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From this number you can access hours and leave a message.

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Luann Dummer Center for Women
Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.