The March lecture, Dr. Sara Paretsky’s “Women, Speech and Silence,” was thoroughly enlightening, moving, and inspiring. Dr. Paretsky was welcomed by a foot-deep Twin Cities snowfall, which required a number of major, last-minute adjustments, but, despite the challenging weather, 250 people, including a substantial number of students, filled the OEC Auditorium to enjoy Dr. Paretsky’s memorable lecture.

The 20th anniversary gala was a momentous event, which included the launch of the anniversary video (now available as a link on the Center’s webpage), the art collection slide show (now compiled on a CD in high-resolution), a panel discussion of Luann’s legacy (featuring Nancy Zingale, Merritt Nequette, Jill Manske, and Linda White), and the unveiling of the sculpture of Luann by Anne Myer.

The spectacular evening ended with a video of the classic song, “I Am Woman”. We were honored by the presence of two UST presidents (Fr. Dease and Dr. Sullivan) and many distinguished guests and friends of the LDCW, about 140 in all. From the podium, I had a great view of the diverse, varied members and constituents of the Center, joining together to celebrate this important milestone. Many attendees later commented that they felt Luann’s presence and her legacy throughout the evening.

—Young-ok An, LDCW Director
whenever I needed help and guidance, the members of the board came forward, willingly and energetically, and swung into action.

Our book club is active, vigorous, and fun. Comprising both regulars and some spontaneous guests, attendance ranges from 8 to 20. In honor of Sara Paretsky’s visit, we read a variety of female mystery writers, and visits by two of the authors (Julie Kramer and Erin Hart) in particular seemed to generate excitement and high attendance. We will continue to schedule author visits. On our Feminist Fridays, LDCW hosted lectures on a range of important topics, and they were very well attended, the attendees often overflowing into the hall. Students were a major presence at every event. In addition, to celebrate the life and work of Adrienne Rich, who passed away in 2012, we had a student-led commemorative gathering. We have another powerful series of programs scheduled for the coming year. Please refer to the events schedule for a description.

We had a successful grant round this year. With concerted efforts and coordination, we ended up having very strong pools for every research grant category and also Women Connect scholarships. The board members put in an impressive amount of work, commenting upon and evaluating the applications, and I then related individualized comments to the recipients. Those who didn’t get the initial grants they applied for, had a chance to apply for smaller grants. Our poster session in the spring, in which previous grant recipients made presentations, was very well attended. It was moving to hear the recipients speak about how they benefited from the grants intellectually and what the grants meant for their career paths.

For the 2013-14 year, we have bright prospects. We have a new female president at the helm of the University, and at the Women’s Center, we have wonderful initiatives and programs in store, in addition to regular events. Our theme for this year is “International Feminism and Diverse Women’s Life Stories.” Our activities surrounding this theme will culminate on March 6, 2014, when our speaker, Haleh Esfandiari, an Iranian-American scholar-journalist, delivers the keynote address. The books for our book club have been selected to correspond with Esfandiari’s talk, and our book club members are excited to delve into this exciting and instructive array of books.

In November, our Yarn Tamers will present a special initiative called the “International Women’s Day Butterfly Project.” Please refer to the full description in this issue.

This year, the LDCW will have an even closer collaboration with the Women’s Studies program in order to lead intellectual discussions and to make an impact on the advancement of gender equity and social justice at the University. Last year, working with Dr. Angela High-Pippert, the
then Director of WMST, I made a proposal for the LD-CW-WMST Project Development grant. Now, the new director of the WMST program, Dr. Sue Myers, and I will continue to build a forum for WMST students and faculty. We are working together to invite a renowned speaker in Women’s Studies to the campus to address the intellectual, political, and practical issues that we face in the discipline and feminism in general.

Furthermore, I’m delighted to continue my support and collaboration with members of the student activist/advocacy group, FemCom (formerly Women’s Circle) and Allies. Please refer to the reports of past programs and plans for this year from representatives of each group.

Last spring, in response to many people highlighting the Center’s need to better connect with the Minneapolis campus, we held a Chocolate Reception there. We had a very good turnout, and we made some good contacts there. I’d like to make this a regular event and continue to think of ways to connect with the Minneapolis campus constituents.

Last but by no means least, I’d like to announce that during the summer, the Center also welcomed a new administrative assistant, Jessie McShane. The administrative assistant at the Center is the “face” of the Center. In addition, she takes care of numerous daily tasks and helps me in a myriad ways, including assisting with event planning and execution. In her interview, Jessie impressed the hiring committee with her facility and efficiency in technology and communication, her unbridled enthusiasm and energy for the Women’s Center’s mission, and her readiness, friendliness, and flexibility. Jessie is a UST graduate and is committed to the Center’s expanding work and vigorous presence on campus. Jessie has already started updating the LDCW website, co-supervising the student workers, and enhancing the Center’s presence on social media. Also, she has been a wonderful host for the Yarn Tamers, and took initiatives in working with staff and students on projects such as the Butterfly project. Jessie’s article in this issue serves as a wonderful self-introduction.

Please join me in making 2013-2014 a dynamic and enlightening year for all LDCW constituents.
I’d like to introduce myself to you...and to invite you to be in contact with me. I teach in the Theology Department, where my areas of expertise are in the New Testament and early Christianity, especially those areas of Christianity that were marginalized. Many decades ago (I won’t say how many), I wrote my first master’s thesis on “Paul on Women,” which contrasted statements by the apostle Paul affirming the importance of women in his communities and in leadership positions with the limiting (and, frankly, misogynist) statements of later writers using his name. I have also examined the early Christian notion of the divine Spirit as nurturing “Mother,” a concept common in Semitic-speaking Christianity but largely lost in the west. I regularly teach a course on Women in the Early Church, which examines the few writings that have survived from early Christian women (there is evidence that women wrote many other works that have not survived) and the many writings from men on women and women’s roles. Students in the course work with local women’s organizations as additional “texts” in the course that allow us to compare the social, political, and religious assumptions about women in both the modern and ancient worlds. It is always an interesting and rewarding course to teach.

I begin my new role as Director of the Women’s Studies program at UST with eagerness, anticipation, and a fair degree of trepidation. It will be difficult to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Angela High-Pippert, who has directed the program so well for the past six years. I have been fortunate to serve on the Women’s Studies Advisory Committee under her leadership and have often marveled at her humor, her quick thinking, and her ability to communicate with a variety of constituencies. I have other skills that I hope to offer! One thing that we both share is a concern and value for our Women’s Studies majors and minors, an impressive group of students with intelligence, commitment, and passion. I look forward to getting to know them better!

There are several exciting things to look forward to in Women’s Studies this year. Around the time that we inaugurate Dr. Sullivan, our first female president at the University of St. Thomas (you go, girl!), we will also bring to campus a renowned speaker on currents in Women’s Studies and other areas that intersect with the field. The details are still being worked out, but look for announcements of a speaker in the near future.

Also watch for a campaign on “The F-Word” (that is, Feminism) that will be launched this fall. I hope that it will stimulate discussion on precisely what it is that feminists value and how UST students, faculty, and staff can embrace those values together, whether or not they have previously self-identified as feminists.

More information will be coming later on the spring area Women’s Studies conference and other events and activities. And of course there are the nine courses that are cross-listed with Women’s Studies being offered this fall alone, many of which I would love to take! We have so much to learn from one another and to teach one another.
During the past spring semester, I attended a “Semester at Sea” program. It was a full functioning university on a cruise ship! We traveled to 12 different countries and 17 cities in 106 days. I was able to get a taste of almost every part of the world. We left from the West Coast, and 5 months later, I flew in over the East Coast. We took classes as the ship traveled from country to country. Once the ship docked at various ports, we were free to explore the countries we were learning about.

The benefit of traveling and learning like this for me was being able see the sheer diversity of the people of the world. We would barely start to process one country, and we would already be in the next country. One phenomenal class that I took on the ship was called “Women Writers Around the Globe.” Through this course, we examined what being a woman means around the world and what experiences are that women share. The answer I came up with was that, while our experiences may greatly differ, this identity as women has the power to unite us. While reading diverse women’s stories, walking around their cities, eating at many different restaurants, and buying their products, I was able to connect with the idea of a truly global concept of feminism. I will use this experience to keep furthering the connections between the women of the world as we work together for a more equal future.

I feel so blessed to write for a publishing company that values strong women. Even the most powerful women today are still not taken seriously in the media. Media outlets often treat women very differently than they do men, especially in politics. Bluewater Productions shines a light on the accomplishments of women, not the way they look. It’s so important to provide girls with strong female role models because then they will think, “Hey, I want to be just like her!”

It was really fascinating doing research on Melinda Gates for this book. She is often referred to as “Bill Gates’ wife,” which just makes me cringe! She has done so much for women all over the world, including her work on HIV/AIDS prevention, and she continues to help girls receive education in the U.S. and globally. Melinda Gates was a really interesting person to research. She is a practicing Roman Catholic and has dedicated her life to helping women in the developing world. She has received criticism from the Catholic Church due to her work with contraception. Gates’ position is that “I’m a Catholic, but women need access to contraceptives.”

Be sure to check out *Melinda Gates* and other Female Force comic books from Bluewater Productions!
The University Advocates for Women and Equity

The UAWE (formerly called the University Committee on Women) is the oldest organization at St. Thomas that deals explicitly with needs and concerns of women. The UAWE was formed in 1990, after the first climate survey at UST demonstrated a chilly climate for women. We continue to work toward a more inclusive and welcoming climate, and to advocate for women at the university. All members of the university community who share concerns about women are eligible to be members of the UAWE, while a coordinating council plans events, speakers, and other projects to support women on campus.

Each year, we hold two campus-wide receptions, one in the fall to welcome new female employees, and one in the spring to celebrate our accomplishments and to give awards to those members of the community who have distinguished themselves in their work for women, both locally and in the wider community. This year, our fall reception is in late September:

UAWE Fall Welcome Reception
Thursday, September 26, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
(Woulfe Hall North, Anderson Student Center)
Everyone is welcome to attend, but new female employees and their immediate supervisors are especially invited.

Dr. Sullivan on Women’s Leadership
Wednesday, November 13, 3:00-4:30 p.m. (McNeely 100)
The UAWE also regularly hosts several events and speakers of interest, including an annual panel on Women’s Leadership Skills. This fall we are honored to have our new university president, Dr. Sullivan, speaking to us about her skills, her path to leadership, and what she enjoys and finds challenging in her role. Come to listen to Dr. Sullivan, to ask questions, and to offer her your support.

Sept. 20 (F), Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Cheri Shakiban
Title: “My Spiritual Journey and Gender Equality”
Dr. Cheri Shakiban, Professor of Mathematics, will talk of her personal experience of growing up in Iran and share her story about what her Baha’i faith meant for her throughout her life. Baha’i teaching includes the spiritual equality of men and women as the cornerstone of God’s plan for human development and prosperity. Her practice in Baha’i helped her overcome social prejudice and led her to succeed in her chosen field of mathematics. Dr. Shakiban will also talk about the situations of women in Iran in the past couple of decades.

Oct. 18 (F), Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Catherine Cory
Title: “Reflections on Femicide and the Ni Una Mas Movement of Mexico and Central America”
Dr. Cathy Cory, Department of Theology and Chair of the History Department, will talk about her recent experience in Mexico and, in particular, what she has learned about the political, economic, religious, and cultural factors that contribute to high rates of femicide in Mexico and Central America. She will share some reflections on Ni Una Mas (Not One More), a populist art/advocacy movement that originated in response to the thousands of women murdered or disappeared in Juarez and northern Mexico. As the killings continue, this movement and others like it are gaining visibility throughout Mexico and Central America. Dr. Cory will also invite a conversation about how we can lend our voices to these now voiceless women and children whose families seek for justice.

Nov. 15 (F), Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Ms. Shoko Hanzawa
Title: “Situations of Women Refugees”
Ms. Shoko Hanzawa, of International Student Services, will discuss the topic of human rights of refugees with a focus on protecting women and girls. Ms. Hanzawa spent three years working with refugees and other persons of concern, and will reflect on the experiences she had in Thailand (refugees from Burma), post-Balkan war Croatia and Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. Ms. Hanzawa will also reflect on the difficulties UN female workers face working in the field of humanitarian affairs. She will present some scenarios on actual cases of refugee women’s rights violations around the world and invite participants to discuss solutions.
Reports from LDCW Small Grants Recipients:

Visiting Gloria Anzaldúa’s Borderlands
Amanda Marek, Graduate of English, Masters Program

Many students at St. Thomas can identify at least two cultures that have shaped who they are as individuals and how they engage with the world around them. As both a graduate English student and a teacher of junior high Spanish for Native Speakers, I find the ways that Mexican American biculturalism shapes identity and gender particularly important to my teaching, and to my interaction with my community. Through my graduate work, I am studying Gloria Anzaldúa, a Chicana author and theorist who focused on the experiences of Chicanas and lesbians. Her writings, such as the collection of essays and poems called Borderlands, contributed to dialogue among women in the U.S. and supported women of color in their participation in feminist movements that had previously been accessible mainly to middle class white women.

In June, thanks to a Small Grant from the LDCW, I traveled to Austin, Texas to spend two weeks at The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, which includes archived materials by Anzaldúa. It was fascinating to note how her thinking changed over time. When she first began publishing in the late 1970s, her focus was to make the majority of the country understand what it meant to be a woman of color and a lesbian, and to establish a place in academia and in national dialogue for herself and women like her. As she developed as an activist in the late 1990s, she focused on the idea of creating a new cultural consciousness that would be more accepting of differences between people. She encouraged audiences to be ready for the “whirlwinds of change” that would split open American society, allowing entrance to women, people of color, and of varying sexualities without demanding that they completely assimilate into dominant cultural expectations.

With Anzaldúa’s “whirlwinds of change” in mind, I am excited to examine how Chicana protagonists navigate their bicultural identities in the greater American community. I believe the development of her theories will help me be a better teacher and support to my Hispanic students as they hold on to their roots and begin to find their places in Minnesota’s schools, jobs, and communities. Her writings would be interesting to anyone aspiring to maintain a cultural identity and engage with the greater St. Thomas and St. Paul community.

The White Privilege Conference Reflection
Amanda Hoppe Gilseth, Graduate Program in Leadership in Education

I attended the 14th Annual White Privilege Conference, made possible by a Small Grant from the Luann Dummer Center for Women. It was an event that will stay dear to me for years to come. Representatives from all over the nation attend this conference, along with over a handful of representatives from other countries who were present to connect, learn, and heal from the oppression of the white supremacy in our world to this day.

Before the conference, I reflected on many of the incidents of oppression I have come across with peers and family while also reflecting on my own knowledge of oppression from previous coursework. I remembered one thing to help prepare me for this conference: it is difficult to see racism when you are white. These reflections allowed me to open my mind and prepare to hear more about the continued oppression of racial discrimination in our nation and our world.

Out of the many workshops I attended during this three-day conference, one I felt as the most powerful and important for women today, was on “colorism” in our society, Cashing in on Skin—Get it Light, Get it Right! Colorism is known as the “forgotten-ism” according to the facilitator of the workshop, Vanessa Roberts. She reflects colorism back to the days of the Felix Von Luschan’s Chromatic Scale, a chart used to classify your skin color. She also reflects back to the days of slavery where the color of a slave’s skin determined their jobs or ranks; those with darker complexions were ranked the lowest and forced to work in the fields compared to those with lighter complexions working in the house. Creating these ranks on based on the darkness of one slave’s skin created tensions between slaves.

I urge everyone to attend this conference at least once in their life. After attending the White Privilege Conference, I look at things much differently than ever before. This conference will surely change you—change the way you look at things in the media, and listen to comments from your peers—and it may be a calling to you to stand up for change and equal rights for all human beings.
What a difference a year can make! This time last year, Minnesota was facing a marriage amendment to the state constitution which defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Now, gay and lesbian couples can legally marry in Minnesota! UST Allies will continue to be a presence on campus and be a resource for the St. Thomas community. Inspired by a well-attended joint lecture between UST Allies, Psychology Club, and Neuroscience Club, Allies plans to have one lecture a month. These lectures will cover a variety of topics, and we hope to get students, staff, and faculty from multiple areas to join us. Potential lectures include theology and LGBT issues, the psychology of homophobia, social movements, LGBT authors and artists, and politics.

As to regular events, Allies plans to host two large events this year, one in October for National Coming Out Day and one in April for Day of Silence. We also plan to volunteer with the Aliveness Project and the Quatrefoil Library again. We are excited to see what this upcoming year has in store!

UST Allies meets Wednesday nights from 6-7p.m. in the Anderson Student Center.

Carey Winkler, School of Social Work

This will mark the 3rd year that ACTC staff, faculty, and students will join for an LGBTQIA leadership retreat. The retreat is planned and coordinated by staff and faculty from St. Thomas, St. Kate’s, Hamline, Augsburg, and Macalester, and it brings together a total of about 35 students from all five schools. The purpose of the retreat is to provide students an opportunity to:

- Build relationships and community making cross-campus connections.
- Self-reflect on issues of diversity, intersectionality, and social justice with a particular focus on LGBTQIA issues and experiences.
- Deepen understanding regarding privilege, oppression, and diversity as they relate to self, others and systems.
- Develop a common language when facilitating and advocating for social justice.
- Develop skills for being an ally across difference.

The retreat includes teaching and activities related to identity, privilege and oppression, allyship, and communication. In addition, students have time devoted to develop campus action plans for their student groups. This provides the opportunity to share ideas with each other and to discuss opportunities for further collaboration.

It has been a pleasure to serve as one of the planning committee members and retreat facilitators. I have been impressed by the commitment of students to further explore their individual stories and continue to engage in LGBTQIA social justice efforts.
I did not know Luann, but I do think that I have come to know some things about her, and through my own history and experience, have come to understand her legacy. I decided to take the advice of Carolyn Heilbrun, the first Women’s History Month speaker, who encouraged all women to tell their story. So, here’s my story.

I came to UST in 1991 from Macalester College, an institution ranked #5 on Newsweek’s 2012 poll of the most liberal colleges. Suffice it to say, I did not know if I would fit in at UST. Frankly, I was not certain there would be a place for me here.

But I am still here. And, I—like many other women—do have a place here. Much of this sense of place is due directly to the vision and wisdom of Luann Dummer in establishing not only a physical place—an important visible presence—but through her work, mission, and activities of the Center, in establishing a much broader space in this community.

I remember well the call I received from Meg Karraker, the first director of the Center, asking if I would be interested in serving on the advisory board. I also remember her asking me if this would be okay with my department, stating that some departments might not support their faculty discharging their service obligations in such a fashion. I had absolutely no idea what she was talking about. I was naïve. I have learned and grown since then. I am not so naïve anymore. Neither is this university. We all have grown. We all have been informed. This is due in no small part to Luann Dummer.

I have served on the advisory board of the Women’s Center for most of my 22 years at UST. There have been many challenges. As Brenda Powell, the second director of the Center once wrote, women’s centers could be “Unruly Places.” What has kept us on course and well-respected in our “unruliness”—even when people disagree or when we have been the lightning rod for issues deemed controversial—is the sense of purpose and mission initiated by Luann Dummer.

I continue to be impressed by how much and how often Luann’s voice infuses the work of the Center, and that it continues to do so. She remains a unique, tangible force two decades after establishing the Center. Perhaps she is haunting us! Whenever we are unsure about how to proceed, someone always reminds us of our mission—of Luann’s mission—and we use this to guide us.

I have spent many hours in the Center, and my eyes are often drawn to the painting of Luann and the unicorn. A unicorn. And a feminist. The world just never expects a feminist to have such a sense of whimsy. This portrait makes me smile. It reminds me not to let others define me. It reminds me that when I can’t find my place, perhaps it’s the place that needs to change.

So, even though I never knew Luann, she is real to me. She impacts me and my life’s work in ways I could never have imagined. Not a bad legacy.
FemCom Says Hello!

Morgan Schreurs,
Women's Studies and Political Science Major, English Minor

UST feminist activist group, FemCom, crafted the following statement within a larger “Goodbye to All That—St. Thomas” declaration as a direct response to negative cultural phenomena manifested within the UST community.

The material included in the document mirrors individual experiences of UST community members, making “Goodbye” a collaborative campus effort. Our ultimate goal of sharing and decrying these stories is change—a cultural shift within St. Thomas. At its core, “Goodbye” is meant to highlight daily mistakes made by everyone and encourage a more inclusive community by reminding everyone we can and should work to do better.

Our emphasis on inclusivity in “Goodbye” and other activist efforts reflects our group’s recent name change. This past semester was our first as the Feminist Community (FemCom) after we chose to divert from our former name of the Women’s Circle. The FemCom was chosen as our name to reflect our mission to destigmatize the word “feminist” and its derivations, promote inclusivity, and further coalition-building efforts. Following from our mission to destigmatize the “f word,” we sponsored an “I need feminism because…” Instagram campaign. UST community members were invited to write a personalized reason on whiteboards or a chalkboard and then had their pictures posted on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We trended our campaign with #UST, #FemCom, and #INeedFeminismBC. This multi-day event received much interest and provided us with an opportunity to debunk some of the myths of feminism mentioned by passersby and sometimes even eventual participants.

We also executed our two annual events — the Clothesline Project and Take Back the Night — and both were great successes. The new Student Initiatives tab on the LDCW’s webpage features these annual activities as well as “Goodbye to All That — St. Thomas.” We thank the Center for its continued support and hope to continue building the FemCom-LDCW relationship!

FemCom aspires to continue its growth and evolution into the new academic year. It’s simply time for us to say, “hello”: “Hello to fulfilling our mission statement—our shared goals—to think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to advance the common good.”

“Goodbye To All That - St. Thomas”

Goodbye to believing freedom of speech negates accountability.

We’re not being edgy when we make racist, homophobic, ableist, sexist, or body-shaming jokes. When it comes to hate language, impact trumps intent. Words rooted in hate or so-called humor hurt. We are responsible for the way our words affect other people, even if we “didn’t mean it like that.” We can’t un-ring that bell.

Things are silly, frustrating, unfair, annoying, or uncomfortable—NOT retarded, NOT gay, and NOT lame. Slut is not synonymous with woman, and woman is not an insult. Racial slurs perpetuate historical trauma. Our separation from someone’s situation does not give us license to ignore the effect of verbal violence. Impact trumps intent.

Be careful about assumptions directed toward people of color. “You speak English well” and “Where are you from? No, where are you really from?” are not polite conversation, but micro-aggressions. Impact trumps intent.

“I’ll pray for you.” Although this offering may be well-intended, it can also serve to imply deviance of the prayer’s subject and moral superiority of the person praying. So when a friend trusts us enough to come out with his or her sexual orientation, we must think twice before saying those four words.

Goodbye to taking our educational opportunities for granted.

Engage yourself! Let’s be more than bodies occupying desks. St. Thomas is not a place to pursue a “Mrs.” degree or just fulfill our parents’ wishes, but a space for shared learning through our liberal arts foundation. And education doesn’t end when we leave the classroom. Don’t be afraid to have tough conversations; don’t be afraid to question norms. Open yourself to the diversity found within the St. Thomas community through classroom experiences, campus events and activities, and personal encounters. We are all students and we are all teachers. When we engage in constructive dialogue, we create a better world together.

...And it’s time for us to say, “hello.” Hello to acknowledging and questioning the quick assumptions we make about each other every day. Hello to recognizing the inherent dignity of every person. Hello to fulfilling our mission statement—our shared goals—to “think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to advance the common good.”
How exciting! I am pleased to introduce myself as the newest addition to the Luann Dummer Center for Women. It is an honor and privilege to take on this role, and I am looking forward to discovering what is in store for this year. I’d like to use my first entry into Many Voices to tell you a little bit about who I am and where I’ve been.

I was born and raised in a small town Spooner, Wisconsin. Growing up in a small town, I had always possessed the desire to move to a bigger city and decided a change wouldn’t hurt, which is why in 2008 I became a resident of JPII Hall at UST. As a double major in Political Science and Justice and Peace Studies, I had the pleasure of building relationships with remarkable professors (like the Poli-Sci dream team) and meeting some great classmates who have become lifelong friends. My four years at UST have not only given me the best education, but have also given me the right tools that have led me to where I am today.

I was fortunate enough to study abroad for a semester in Australia in 2010 and take a J-term trip to Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania in 2011. After graduating in 2012, I hadn’t quite shaken the travel bug and decided to move to Mokpo, South Korea for one year to teach English as a second language to 500 mixed-gender middle school students per week (I still don’t know where all of their energy comes from)! Korea proved to be one of the most remarkable experiences I could have asked for. Immersing myself into a culture so unfamiliar to my own, and for so long, helped me learn not only about Korea but a lot about myself and what I hope to accomplish in life. It has also helped me pursue issues that I am passionate about. While in Korea I had the opportunity to do some volunteer work at a local orphanage, I decided to put my Justice and Peace Studies degree to use and initiated an English Coordinator position at the orphanage. After doing some research and applying for some grants, I was able to provide, through fund-raising, English materials to all of the kids that reside there. Currently, all students have volunteer English teachers who come in twice per week and teach the kids from their brand new English textbooks.

Leaving Korea was a tough decision, but I am excited and eager to work under Dr. An and bring my enthusiasm and experience to the Luann Dummer Center for Women. My passion for women’s issues extends beyond my presence at the LDCW. I was fortunate enough to intern for Minnesota Women’s Consortium my sophomore year and acted as a liaison for College Feminists Connect my last two years at UST. Through my experiences, I have gained an even stronger ambition to make a difference for women, especially young women on campus, in a variety of issues concerning justice and equality. It is my desire to continue my education at UST in the International Leadership master’s program; I hope to start next fall. I am not shy to admit I have a lot to learn, and am anxious and excited to share my newfound knowledge with all of you. I am so excited to be back at UST, sporting purple on Tuesdays and honored to represent such an important space on campus. If I haven’t had the pleasure of meeting you yet, please stop by the Center to say hello.
All book club meetings take place from noon to 1:00 at the Women’s Center (OEC 103) on the last Wednesday of the month.

**September 25, 2013**  
**Marie NDiaye, Three Strong Women:**

From Marie NDiaye, the first black woman to win the Prix Goncourt, a harrowing and beautiful novel of the travails of West African immigrants in France. As the three women’s lives intertwine, each woman manages an astonishing feat of self-preservation against those who have made themselves the fastest-growing and most-reviled people in Europe. In NDiaye’s stunning narration, we see the progress by which ordinary women discover unimagined reserves of strength.

**October 30, 2013**  
**Mary Sharratt, Illuminations: A Novel of Hildegard von Bingen**

Last year, Hildegard was elevated to the status of Doctor of the Church, one of only four women to be honored so. Sharratt “has brought to life a 12th century woman in a way that can really speak to the women of today.” Mary Sharratt will be available via Skype for Q/A.

**November 27, 2013**  
**Julia Alvarez, In the Time of Butterflies**

This historical novel takes place during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. The four Mirabel sisters—Maria Teresa, Minerva, Patria, and Dedé—become dedicated to overthrowing the dictator’s regime, and their story is told by the surviving sister, Dedé.

The day of the murder of the Mirabel sisters, November 25th, has been declared by the United Nations, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Alvarez announced that “I’d love it if we began a tradition of wearing a butterfly on that day!” The LDCW will mount a “November Butterfly Project” in collaboration with the Yarn Tamers.

**January 29, 2014**  
**Roxana Saberi, Between Two Worlds**

South Dakota-based young journalist Saberi’s memoir narrates her five-month captivity in Iran. In collaboration with Student Diversity and Inclusion Services, the LDCW will co-sponsor Ms. Saberi’s visit to UST.

**February 26, 2014**  
**Haleh Esfandiari, My Prison, my Home**

A stunning arrest was the culmination of a chain of events set into motion in the early-morning hours of December 31, 2006—a day that began like any other but presaged the end of Esfandiari’s regular visits to her elderly mother in Iran, and her return to the United States. Esfandiari became the victim of the far-fetched belief on the part of Iran’s Intelligence Ministry that she, a scholar with the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, D.C., was part of an American conspiracy for “regime change” in Iran. In haunting prose and vivid detail, Esfandiari recounts how she spent 105 days in solitary confinement. Through her ordeal, Esfandiari came face-to-face with the state of affairs between Iran and the United States—and witnessed firsthand how fear and paranoia could create a government that would take her captive. Weaving her personal story of capture and release with her extensive knowledge of Iran, My Prison, My Home is at once a mesmerizing story of survival and a clear-eyed portrait of Iran’s recent history.

**March 19, 2014**  
**Ahdaf Soueif, Cairo: My City, Our Revolution**

Ahdaf Soueif is an acclaimed multi-book author and also a cultural and political commentator and activist. Cairo: My City, Our Revolution is a personal account
of the first year of the Egyptian revolution. Her sister Laila Soueif as both her nephew and niece, Alaa Abd El-Fatah and Mona Seif, are notable activists.

April 24, 2014
Ruth Ozeki,
A Tale for the Time Being

“Time being” is someone who lives in time, and “that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be,” suggests the author. In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there’s only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates’ bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who’s lived more than a century. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao’s drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future. A Tale for the Time Being is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

May 28, 2014
Sonya Sotomayor,
My Beloved World

The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

June 25, 2014
NoViolet Bulawayo,
We Need New Names

Darling is only 10 years old, and yet she must navigate a fragile and violent world. In Zimbabwe, the homes of Darling and her friends were destroyed by paramilitary policemen, and the school closed, followed by the fathers leaving home for dangerous jobs abroad. But Darling has a chance to escape: she has an aunt in America. She travels to this new land in search of America’s famous abundance only to find that her options as an immigrant are perilously few. NoViolet Bulawayo’s debut calls to mind the great storytellers of displacement and arrival who have come before her—from Zadie Smith to Monica Ali to J.M. Coetzee—while she tells a vivid, raw story all her own.

July 30, 2014
Alice Bechdel,
Are You My Mother?

This is a memoir in a graphic-novel style (cartoonist style) about the author’s relationship with her mother and “the self, subjectivity, desire, the nature of reality, that sort of thing” (a bit of paraphrase from Virginia Woolf’s To the Light House.

August 27, 2014
Janis Amatuzio,
M. D. Forever Ours

Amatuzio sees dead people. Indeed, as an anatomic, forensic, and clinical pathologist and coroner for several counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin, she sees them every day. They also see her and sometimes even speak to her through their families and other loved ones. In this slim yet powerful account, Amatuzio testifies, from her working experience, to the ethereal vastness that sometimes glimmers at us from the other side. Although she can’t “cure” the survivors she encounters of what ails them, she can offer solace and comfort in what are often their most difficult hours. Covering incidents from the spiritual connection Amatuzio made with her very first terminal patient to the resurrection of her deceased secretary’s peonies, these heartfelt true stories make worthy reading.
2013 Sister Pat Kowalski
Women’s Leadership
Award goes to...

Susan Anderson-Benson, Program
Manager, Selim Center for Learning

I was humbled and honored to be named the 2013 recipient of the Sister Pat Kowalski Women’s Leadership Award. At the ceremony, I shared my thoughts on what this award means and how it can inspire each of us.

We are encouraged at UST to “challenge ourselves and change our world” and I believe each and every one of you can do so, just as I did and continue to do. Note that we are challenged to change our world, not the world. So don’t be overwhelmed at the many needs, and instead, pick something that’s important to you, and figure out a way that you can make a difference for that one thing. More importantly, what you do needs to “work” for you—be it giving your time, cooking, knitting, or just being there to lend your support—and passion for what you’re doing will make it easier to keep doing it. My student worker, Samantha, plays bingo on Thursday nights with senior citizens and some of her fellow students. Her personable nature is a gift that gives to everyone who meets her. My son, Andy, gives his time to help in our community, even as he is gaining valuable skills for his future profession. Among my many activities, I knit hats, scarves and blankets for Alexandra House, a battered women’s shelter—giving virtual hugs with each article. Each of us has different gifts and passions: I challenge you to find yours and share it so you too can “change our world”!

Yarn Tamers
November Butterfly Project

Jessie McShane, LDCW

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.

Yarn Tamers meet on Mondays during the school year at the Women’s Center, (OEC 103) from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Recognizing the LDCW theme of this year, “International Feminism and Diverse Women’s Life Stories,” the LDCW Book Club, in collaboration with the Yarn Tamers, have decided to create a special project for the month of November. The book we are reading for November is titled *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. Alvarez’s book tells the haunting story of the lives of Patria, Minerva, and María Mirabal, who were assassinated in the autumn of 1960 for their role in the underground movement against the brutal dictatorship of the Dominican Republic’s Rafael Leonidas Trujillo’s regime. These women became icons of freedom and women’s rights when the murders of the three inspired many in the Dominican Republic to denounce the regime publicly, marking the beginning of the end for Trujillo’s reign. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated the date of the Mirabal sisters’ deaths, November 25, as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In honor of this day, Yarn Tamers has started crocheting 100+ purple butterflies and will be turning them into pins. We hope that many people on campus will wear these butterflies throughout the month of November in hopes to raise awareness of International Elimination of Violence against Women. We will be passing out butterflies to different departments and throughout campus during the month of October. We will also be accepting donations for these butterflies. The LDCW will match the donations, and the Yarn Tamers will then donate that entire sum to The Alexandra House, the battered women’s/domestic violence shelter, in Saint Paul.

Please look out for our purple butterflies or contact the Women’s Center at womenscntr@stthomas.edu if you would like to reserve yours today! ☺
### Spring 2013

#### 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13 (F)</td>
<td>Open House / Chocolate Reception, Open House / Chocolate Reception, 2:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19 (Th)</td>
<td>VAWA and the Campus SaVE Act, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Woulfe Alumni Hall)</td>
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<td>Sept. 20 (F)</td>
<td>Feminist Friday, Dr. Cheri Shakiban, Noon-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25 (W)</td>
<td>LDCW Book Club, Noon-1:00 p.m. (OEC 103)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26 (Th)</td>
<td>UAWE Fall Welcome Reception, 3:30-5:00 pm, Woulfe Hall North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1 (T)</td>
<td>Tommie Talks, 5:00-7:30 p.m. (Woulfe Alumni Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 18 (F)</td>
<td>Feminist Friday, Dr. Catherine Cory, Noon-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30 (W)</td>
<td>LDCW Book Club, Noon-1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13 (W)</td>
<td>President Sullivan on Women’s Leadership (Sponsored by UAWE) 3:00-4:30 p.m. (McNeely 100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15 (F)</td>
<td>Feminist Friday, Ms. Shoko Hanzawa, Noon-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 25 (M)</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Watch for butterflies!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 27 (W)</td>
<td>LDCW Book Club, Noon-1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save the Date! March 6 (Th), 2014</td>
<td>Women’s History Month Lecture by Haleh Esfandiari (7:30 p.m. OEC Auditorium)</td>
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### Speed Mentoring for Female Students

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is happy to announce we will be hosting a speed mentoring event for women on Tuesday, October 1st from 5:00 – 7:30 in Woulfe Alumni Hall. Through this event, 45 female students will be given an opportunity to meet with 15 mentors for up to three minutes each in hopes of understanding the unique rewards, challenges, and benefits of a woman in the workplace. Our “Tommie Talks” event 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. The mentors come from diverse backgrounds and include a wide range of age groups and professions. Some of us at Feminist Community (FemCom) are working hard at it, and we will involve the Career Development Center and the Alumni Association. We hope students will leave the event with a positive outlook on future dreams and endeavors, as well as great tips to overcome workplace challenges. The Center will be reporting back with a recap of the event in the spring issue of Many Voices.
Contact:
Telephone: (651) 962-6119
From this number you can access hours and leave a message.

Staff:
Dr. Young-ok An
Director
Jessie McShane,
Administrative Assistant

Student Assistants:
Melissa Seymour
Elizabeth Phyle
Bailey Fischer
Morgan Schreurs

2115 Summit Avenue · Mail 4075
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 · USA

Luann Dummer Center for Women
Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
http://www.stthomas.edu/ldcw/