The Luann Dummer Center for Women is happy to announce that Winona LaDuke will present the Women’s History Month lecture, “Women and Native Struggles: Toward Ecological Transformation.” Please join us on Tuesday, March 10, in the OEC Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. to listen to this compelling speaker.

Winona LaDuke, an Ojibwe (Anishinaabeg), is an internationally renowned Native American activist and advocate for environmental, women’s, and children’s rights. In 1996 and 2000, LaDuke represented the Green Party as she ran for vice president, while Ralph Nader ran for president. LaDuke is the founder and campaign director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, a reservation-based land acquisition, environmental advocacy, and cultural organization. She and the White Earth Land Recovery Project received the international Slow Food Award for their work protecting wild rice and local biodiversity.

LaDuke also founded and co-chairs the Indigenous Women’s Network, and serves as program director of “Honor the Earth,” a Native American foundation which works primarily on environmental and energy policy issues. Through this work, she is involved in national renewable energy strategies for the new millennium. LaDuke organizes and hosts the annual “Honor the Earth” tour in conjunction with the folk-rock duo, the Indigo Girls (Amy Ray and Emily Saliers). In 1997, along with other honorees, LaDuke, Ray, and Saliers were named by Ms. magazine as Women of the Year.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch University, LaDuke has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. She is the author of five books, including All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life; Last Standing Woman, a novel (in which she chronicles a Native American reservation and its people’s struggle to restore their culture); In the Sugarbush, a non-fiction children’s book; The Winona LaDuke Reader (a twenty-year collection of her writing, journalism, speeches, testimony, and poetry); and her most recent book, Recovering the Sacred.

LaDuke is the mother of five children, and lives with her family on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

To prepare for LaDuke’s lecture, the LDCW will host a book club discussion, Wednesday, February 26 (noon to 1 p.m.) at OEC 103.
Throughout 2014-2015, we have hosted many events, large and small, connected to the theme of “Women and Environmental Sustainability.” The books we’ve begun reading for this year’s book club highlight various facets of this theme: Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, Jane Goodall’s *Harvest for Hope*, Octavia Butler’s *Parables of the Sower*, Cheryl Strayed’s *Wild*, Elizabeth Kolbert’s *The Sixth Extinction*, and Ruth Ozeki’s *My Year of Meats*, to name a few. Reading these books made me realize how vast and intricate issues of sustainability are, as well as how incredibly important and urgent. Discussion participants have recognized the harsh realities of ecological degradation, and we have renewed our commitments to working toward sustaining our environment. This year, I’m particularly grateful to my co-facilitators of the book club discussions who have deepened and enriched our conversations. Past and future co-facilitators include Dalma Martinovic-Weigelt, Liz Dussol, Todd Lawrence, Jessie Meshane, Liz Wilkinson, and Shannon Scott.

**Our Feminist Friday speakers have presented thought-provoking, timely, and deeply enlightening talks on aspects of “Women and Environmental Sustainability.”**

Our September 2014 speaker, Dr. Britain Scott, addressed the implications of objectified female bodies on women’s perceptions of themselves, especially in terms of their natural bodies as part of the larger ecological system. In October, Dr. Steve Hoffman addressed the social and environmental consequences of the massive increase in the production and export of tar sands-based crude oil, drawing particular attention to the destructive impacts on Canadian Aboriginal communities and the women and children residing in those communities. In November, Dr. Maria Dahmus heartened and inspired us with her presentation on women’s leadership and social activism in the U.S. environmental movement, discussing the social and political changes that have resulted from women’s efforts. Local artist Jane Wunrow’s talk, which focused on her journey as an artist as she became wife and mother, juggling different demands and taking inspirations from nature and her own dreams, completed our fall semester’s Feminist Friday series.
In spring 2015, we are looking forward to UST alumna Carly Dent’s talk on “Women and Food Justice” and Dr. Kim Miller’s talk on the representation of women as politically active and effective subjects in post-apartheid South Africa’s commemorative landscape.

When the LDCW’s Advisory Board decided on our theme, we wanted to encourage the University community to learn more about women’s issues in relation to ecology and about how our lives and concerns are interconnected with our environment. It was natural and important that we work with various UST departments, such as Environmental Studies, Justice and Peace Studies, Women’s Studies, English, and Communication and Journalism, as well as Student Diversity and Inclusion Services as we planned our programming.

We were delighted when Winona LaDuke accepted the invitation to be our March History speaker.

Courageous, smart, honest, and committed, LaDuke is inspirational as an environmentalist, activist, economist, political candidate, analyst, and writer. LaDuke’s *All Our Relations* describes how various native tribes across the U.S. and Canada fought to protect their land, water, and way of life from corporate profit-seeking and complicit government policies. Her vision for alternative energy aligns with native struggles to protect their reservations, which are micro-cosmos of the earth.

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

Feminist concerns and aspirations run through LaDuke’s work, which interweaves history, politics, nature, science, economy, and literature. For her, all these areas are deeply and organically connected with the life that connects all of us, natives of the earth.
Dr. Sue Myers, Chair of Women’s Studies; Theology

The annual Women’s Studies Student conference (for students at Augsburg, Hamline, St. Kate’s and St. Thomas) will take place on Friday, Feb. 27, from 3:30 until 8 p.m. at St. Kate’s. St. Thomas has a strong lineup of students giving presentations on many fascinating topics. Come show your support! Then stay for a keynote presentation on a book by students on women in the Harry Potter books, a free meal, and a concert by an alum group called Kitten Forever. You don’t have to be a Women’s Studies student or faculty member to attend.

Join in honoring UST Women’s Studies 2015 graduates and Triota Honors recipients at a reception on Friday, April 24 at 3 p.m. in the LDCW. All Women’s Studies students, faculty, and friends are warmly invited!

Reports on National Women’s Studies Association’s 2014 Conference

Dr. Angela High-Pippert, Political Science and Women’s Studies

I would like to thank the Luann Dummer Center for Women for the professional development grant that contributed to my travel expenses to the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico (November 13-16, 2014). Since I would not have had the travel money to attend both NWSA and my national political science conference in the spring, I would have missed this conference if not for the LDCW grant. And it was an amazing conference experience! My presentation was very well-received, and I also gained a great deal from the other panels, which explored the intersections of justice, activism, pedagogy, and identity.

The theme of the conference, “Feminist Transgressions,” was reinforced by the powerful keynote by bell hooks. I first read bell hooks’ Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism as a graduate student, and her work shaped my developing perspectives on women and politics in powerful and lasting ways. Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics is still my go-to source for a definition of feminism that is both meaningful and practical. I had looked forward to her keynote, and I was not disappointed.

In addition to the professional development opportunities provided by the conference, there
were also some great opportunities for community-building within our Women’s Studies program. I enjoyed experiencing aspects of the conference with Sue Myers, Director of Women's Studies, and the UST students in attendance (Emma Kopp, Gabby Schiller, and Brooke Wohlrabe), plus my colleagues from across the ACTC Women’s Studies program.

This support of my research and professional engagement is incredibly valuable to me, and it’s just another example of how the Luann Dummer Center for Women makes such a difference for all of us.

JESSION McSHANE, LDCW Staff and International Education (M.A. Program)

This past November I was fortunate enough to attend the National Women’s Studies Association Conference, “Feminist Transgressions,” held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I gave a paper entitled, “Rethinking Justice for Gender Equality Transnationally,” and I sat on a panel with two other individuals with similar paper topics. The NWSA conference proved to be one that I will never forget. I could feel the energy of everyone present as soon as I stepped through the doors of the conference center. I met some of the most powerful and passionate women there to educate, be educated, ask questions, and connect. bell hooks was the keynote speaker and gave a very inspiring talk on feminist transgressions and endeavors that take up the histories, geographies, affective dimensions, and political stakes of various feminist insubordinations in the spaces they occupy. I also attended a pre-conference on the focus of the Women’s Centers. We had a large Midwest representation there with UST, U of M, and Hamline all present. It was refreshing and wonderful to talk to these women so close to home and see how things operate within the women’s and gender centers both in the Twin Cities and throughout the nation. The networking that happened at NWSA was invaluable, and I brought back many strategies and ideas to add to the LDCW! I would like to express my gratitude towards Dr. An and the LDCW advisory board for giving me the opportunity to attend this once-a-lifetime experience through an LDCW professional development award.
LDCW Feminist Friday Talks
February 20:
Women & Food Justice

CARLY DENT,
Class of 2014
(Environmental Studies and Psychology)

Carly Dent is a 2014 graduate of St Thomas with a double major in Environmental Studies and Psychology. Over the last year, Carly co-founded Brightside Produce Distributors, a collaborative system in which produce is distributed to corner stores in low-income neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Carly had many roles in this project, including the mentoring of two youth entrepreneurs, conducting assessments, and heading distribution and sales. She continues to work on the project through UST community engagement as well as full-time at Lakewinds Food Co-op in the produce department. Carly hopes to work with local organizations that are focused around food justice, as she truly believes in the necessity to change our current food system.

BrightSide distributors:
Adam Pruitt, Dede Fuller, and Carly Dent

The Stories We See: Depictions of Female Authority in South Africa’s Public Sphere
April 10:

DR. KIM MILLER,
Associate Professor, Wheaton College

Dr. Kim Miller is Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and African Art History at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. She also serves as Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, and as Co-Coordinator of Peace and Social Justice Studies (which she founded). Dr. Miller will talk about the representation of women as politically active and effective subjects in post-apartheid South Africa’s commemorative landscape. Focusing on several attempts at public memorial after apartheid, Dr. Miller will address public memory practices, how they are used to regulate gender, and the messages they convey about the perceived importance of women’s political roles during – and directly after – major political transitions. She will consider how women’s agency and heroism is recognized, or made in/visible, in the public sphere, and what is at stake in how women are remembered.
Report on the UAWE
University Advocates for Women and Equity
April 10:

LIZ DUSSOl, Academic Counseling

The UAWE had a productive fall semester. On September 23, we held our annual meeting to welcome new women employees to St. Thomas and to elect new members to the UAWE Coordinating Council. We also asked those in attendance to let us know about some of the issues impacting women at UST that they might like to see addressed. The top three were women in leadership, balancing work-family obligations, and UST benefits and how they affect women.

On October 6, the UAWE sponsored “A Conversation with the Provost,” where we asked Dr. Richard Plumb to share some of his thoughts. His focus is on helping UST implement and achieve its new strategic plan. He discussed some of the inequalities he encountered at the previous institution he worked at, and what he did there to rectify them. Dr. Plumb discussed inclusive excellence: we want all of our policies to give equal opportunities for everyone to succeed.

On November 12, the UAWE sponsored a “Women’s Leadership Skills Panel.” Our panelists were Beth Bergfield, chair of the Non-Exempt Staff Council; Dr. Ann Johnson, former chair of the department of Psychology and current director of Faculty Development, and Dr. Corrine Carvalho, former director of the Luann Dummer Center and current chair of the Faculty Senate. They were generous with their time and had excellent suggestions for other women.

After mentioning to Human Resources that there was an interest in the topic of UST benefits and how they affect women, we decided to have representatives from the UAWE Coordinating Council at the Benefits and Services Fair. The Fair will be held on the St. Paul campus from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. on Monday, March 2, and on the Minneapolis Campus from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3. Come visit us there!

We are excited to be sponsoring a Work-Family Balance Panel on Tuesday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the LDCW. Our panelists will include Dr. Allison Jessee, an Assistant Professor in Psychology (specializing in developmental psychology) and Family Studies, as well as the mother of an infant; Becca Swiler, the director of UST’s Child Development Center and the mother of a teenager; and Dr. Bernard Armada, a Professor in Communications & Journalism, as well as the father of school-aged twins. Can we have it all, or does something have to give? What are the main stressors for families, and what are some strategies for managing it all? This should be a fabulous panel—come early to get a seat!

Finally, the UAWE will have our Spring Reception and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 9, at 3:30 p.m. in McNeely 100. This is a joyous event, open to the entire UST community: don’t forget to mark your calendar! Also, if you know someone impressive from the UST community, please recognize them by nominating them for one of our four awards (see description at left). Get cracking—the deadline for all nominations is 4 p.m. on February 16. To nominate a faculty member, staff member, or student, email a letter to Liz Dussol (uawe@stthomas.edu) stating the nominee’s qualifications for the award. The UAWE Coordinating Council, joined by representatives of the Women’s Studies program and the Luann Dummer Center for Women in the case of the Sapientia Award, will consider nominations and select winners for the awards (reminder—for the Sapientia award, a copy of the scholarly work or documentation of the creative work should accompany the nomination).

Here is the list of the awards; for details, please visit the UAWE website:
- Sister Pat Kowalski Women’s Leadership Award
- Good Sister Award
- Pauline Lambert Award
- Sapientia Award

For any questions about the nomination process, contact Liz Dussol or any member of the UAWE Coordinating Council: Young-ok An, Beth Bergfield, Sarah Churchill, Vanessa Cornett-Murtado, Liz Dussol, Jess McShane, Susan Myers, Ea Porter, Mary Ann Ryan, Patricia Satzer, Colleen Stephens, Michelle Thom, Elizabeth Wohner, and student representative Gabriella Schiller. Members of the UAWE Council are not eligible to receive the awards.

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An LDCW grant supported the creation of a five-part LGBTQQIAA training series that is in process in collaboration with the Leadership Academy. This series builds on the many trainings that have been done at UST over that past few years and includes a broader range of topics. Vern Klobassa and I have facilitated three of the five trainings thus far and will lead the final two in the series during the spring semester.

This five-part training series offers participants an introduction and opportunity to deepen knowledge, skills, awareness, resources, and strategies for engaging and responding to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and allied (LGBTQQIAA) people and topics. We have had the pleasure of welcoming a fairly consistent group to the table with a couple of new faces each time. This consistency has provided us the opportunity to both cover the training content and engage in critical discussions about individual experiences and UST campus opportunities. Participants have shared ways in which they are using the information to take action on campus and make changes to space, programming, and policies promoting an inclusive climate.

Here are a few comments from participants remarking on what they have taken away from the series thus far:

“I have been pleasantly surprised at the depth, knowledge and sensitivity of the material covered in the LGBTQQILA series on how to be a better ally. I hope this is just the beginning of making our campus safer and more welcoming for our students.”

“From the series I am taking away a great sensitivity about the constant working and re-working necessary to create a truly equal, inclusive and open space, where we are able to ask those vulnerable, uncomfortable questions and come to realize each other better. I also see clearly the importance of being able to define oneself, and in fact defining oneself, and the use of language around that. And finally through the sessions thus far, I continue on a deeper journey into my own awareness and privileges.”

“The biggest impact this course has had on me was learning about the experiences that some students, faculty, and staff members in the LGBT community have here at St. Thomas. I appreciate the open and safe discussions and the opportunity to learn how to be a part of a welcoming campus.”

“For me, what this workshop has really shown is that UST is beginning to realize the onus is on the university, and us as staff, to create a more welcoming climate for LGBTQ students, rather than simply hoping those students will ‘blend in’ on their own and not draw attention to themselves. It has also helped me to figure out small ways I can alter the climate within my own department, such as redoing signs on single stall restrooms to be gender neutral, or hanging up an ‘Ally’ sign on my bulletin board.”

“In this thoughtful series, I have wrestled with taken-for-granted privileges and social constructions, such as the declaration that I am woman. It is essential to create spaces like this so that we can work toward a more authentic, radical hospitality and understanding of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two Spirit and Queer community.”

As a facilitator, I have been inspired by the level of interest and engagement by participants. Furthermore, I have been incredibly impressed by the many ways in which participants are transforming their knowledge and passion into action on campus. The LDCW continues to support and collaborate in ways that engage the campus community in striving for inclusivity and improving the climate for St. Thomas’s LGBTQ community.
Report on the Staff and Faculty Allies committee meeting

DR. CARA ANTHONY,
Theology and Environmental Studies

The UST Allies Committee, dedicated to improving campus climate and policy for LGBTQ+ individuals, met on Friday, January 16 with two main objectives: to discuss our current identity, mission and committee name; and to learn more about intersectionality, which refers to the ways in which different forms of discrimination or oppression (racism, sexism, classism, transphobia, etc.) overlap or intersect in the lives of individuals and communities.

Historically, Allies has focused on educating the UST community on LGBTQ+ topics, as well as offering support and community for its members. As UST becomes more open to the visibility and participation of LGBTQ+ people, the Allies Committee has been invited to add its voice to decisions in hiring and policy. This is a most welcome change, and it begs the questions, “What kind of group are we? How might our name better reflect who we are?” After some discussion, two possible new committee names emerged, which are now being publicized to all committee members for their deliberation and vote. Stay tuned for the results!

In the second half of our meeting, Prof. Carey Winkler led us through a discussion and reflection on the many layers of identity that each of us carries. For example, aspects of one’s identity include physical ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, employment status, mental health, socio-economic class, veteran status, appearance/attractiveness, and religion. Sometimes these identities are visible, sometimes not, but they frequently affect the way we treat each other, becoming occasions of empowerment or oppression in our daily lives. Raising awareness of these many intersecting identities and the privilege or oppression they entail is crucial to creating more just relationships in our personal and community life.

Upcoming Allies Event:
Friday April 17: Night of Noise, starting at 4 p.m. in ASC LL07 (dance space). Please join us for the Night of Noise where we will celebrate LGBTQ and ally identities at UST through performance, fun interactive stations, and reflection.

Other meetings and plans:
1. A reception for all diversity committees to welcome Dr. Calvin Hill, our new university officer for diversity and inclusion, who arrived to begin work at UST in late January. (Feb. 20, 2-4 p.m. at the OSF Library Leather Room)
2. A meeting with Associate Vice President of Human Resources Michelle Thom during the spring semester to discuss ways that Human Resources can better serve LGBTQ+ employees.

Report on FemCom
(Feminist Community—a student group affiliated with the LDCW)

MADELYN LARLIN,
Psychology major; Spanish and Family Studies minor

FemCom continues to promote consent education on campus and to raise awareness of sexual misconduct. We are working toward improvements in the UST community to make it a safer place for all. With these goals in mind, we have recently collaborated with the Dean of Students and Office of Student Affairs to revise the language of the new Sexual Misconduct Policy to reflect the affirmative consent language used in recent federal regulations. Our recommendations are under advisement as they decide on revisions, which are due in March or April.

In addition, FemCom has been pleased to welcome Emily Erickson to UST as the new Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education and Training Coordinator. We are glad to have her as an ally in administration as we work toward our goals and we are proud of UST for creating this position, as we need an individual dedicated to addressing these issues on our campus. We are looking forward to working with Emily to bring positive changes to UST.

This semester, FemCom is working on a PSA-type video or video series as a way to destigmatize feminism on campus. It has been the experience of many members that students at UST, in general, have misconceptions about what feminism means, and we would like to address those misunderstandings. We hope to release the video(s) by the end of the spring semester.

In collaboration with the Luann Dummer Center for Women, FemCom will host the annual round table series event this spring. We are excited to, once again, be part of this annual event. This year, FemCom has decided to devote the event to the theme of invisible disabilities.

FemCom is looking forward to another great semester filled with many opportunities for positive change at UST! We invite you to our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the LDCW!
Sowing Green Dots

**What’s Your Green Dot?**

**DR. JEAN GIEBENHAIN, “Promoting a Culture of Respect and Responsibility”**

Let me talk a little about PREVENTION through Green Dot’s bystander intervention program. How many of you have heard about Green Dot? This is something I am passionate about. I have been a faculty member in the Psychology Dept. here for over 30 years. I care about our students and our community. I am a clinical psychologist, with an emphasis in working with women who have severe trauma in their history. I am the mother of three adopted daughters (right around our students’ ages) who have histories of severe trauma. I can’t tell you how many times, after spring break, I have had students come to my office telling me about a sexual assault that happened while they were in Florida or Cancun, or wherever. I know the long-term impact of sexual violence, and it needs to stop. I would like my 4-year-old grandson to grow up in a community where violence/sexual violence is not tolerated—I would like him to grow up in a culture of “respect and responsibility.”

You probably know the statistics: 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men on college campuses experience some sort of violence/sexual violence. And I’m sure we all agree: ONE IS TOO MANY. I am hoping that like me, faculty will want to be part of changing the culture on college campuses—including this campus. This is what the Green Dot program is all about. Very simply, Green Dot asks us to think of a map of our campus. Each time someone is hurt by someone else—by words or actions—that is a Red Dot. Every time someone intervenes or does something on our campus to decrease or prevent any kind of violence, that’s a Green Dot. **Green Dot challenges us to create a campus culture where violence is unacceptable and intervention is expected.** The more Green Dots we have on campus, the more people will “do Green Dots.” We can each do our part. We can all say or do something when we see violence or an opportunity for violence. Clearly students are on the front lines here, though we are ALL part of promoting a cultural shift on our campus.

Students might think: “What can I do?” Perhaps when people make derogatory remarks, you “speak out”—you call them on it. Maybe you “distract” or just “watch out” for others. I remember times seeing a friend who has had too much to drink dancing at a party, at a bar, or at a wedding and seeing what looks like a line being crossed. What do you do? Go over and start dancing with your friend to get him or her out of the situation. I remember making plans with friends before we went to a party or bar to make sure we all left together to keep everyone safe. Even recently, I intervened in a situation where I felt very uncomfortable—I must admit, I almost walked away. It’s not necessarily easy to do the right thing, but I would have felt terrible if I had done nothing. The point is—all the easy things, along with the hard things, are Green Dots. Part of this program is just to make all of us—students, staff, and faculty—more aware of the Green Dots we already do, give us more “tools in our tool kit” and more confidence to respond in ways that fit for us (including finding someone else to intervene—getting help). Again, the key is to make this part of the everyday culture on our campus. Also think about this: if you or someone you love has ever been affected by sexual assault, was there anyone around who might have been able to intervene at ANY point leading up to it, and didn’t? Or, if you were in a potentially dangerous situation, would you want someone to do something?

Green Dot isn’t just about intervening in potentially dangerous situations. Another thing you can do is just talk to people. One of my daughters, who, by the way, is a recent St. Thomas graduate, told me about a conversation she was having with her friends. When the topic of sexual assault came up during the conversation, some said that they had been sexually assaulted during their college years, and some said they hadn’t. To that, my daughter said something like this: “Most people think that sexual assault is stranger rape. It’s more than that. Have you ever had unwanted sex or oral sex with someone you knew?” (Note: Over 80% of rapes are acquaintance rapes, and more than 50% of them happen on dates.) “Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way that was unwanted, or when you were unable to give consent?” “If so, then you have been sexually assaulted.”

After further conversation, ALL of them admitted they had been sexually assaulted. That is eye-opening in so many ways—especially that so many of our students don’t even know what constitutes sexual assault.

As a mother, grandmother, therapist, teacher, caring community member, I don’t want anyone on or off our campus to be sexually assaulted. I am sure you don’t want this either. It’s not always easy or comfortable, but the more we talk about it, the more we “do something,” the more others will do something, the easier it will be, the safer our community will be, and honestly, it will make a difference. Just posting Green Dot info in your department and outside your offices will help raise awareness of Green Dot and start the conversation. Even what you have learned today is enough to start a conversation or to encourage a student group to invite a Green Dot speaker to a club meeting. I really appreciate you time, and thanks for spreading the word.

www.stthomas.edu/greendot greendot@stthomas.edu
Emily Erickson, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator

When I joined the St. Thomas community in November 2014, it quickly became clear to me that many people on campus had heard about Green Dot. Over the past three years, UST has committed to implementing this violence reduction program with one simple goal: engaging our community in behavior changes that will make our campus safer for everyone. What is less clear to me is, do people feel the power of Green Dot?

Let me tell you about when I first heard about Green Dot. I was chatting with two staff members at the Sexual Violence Center (SVC) in Minneapolis, where I was serving on the board of directors. Both staff members were seasoned veterans in the sexual violence prevention community, collectively having over 40 years of service in the field.

These staff members had participated in just about every type of prevention work you could imagine: interdisciplinary protocol teams, presentations to middle and high school students, hundreds of trainings for other professions, training thousands of volunteer advocates, YouTube videos, Take Back the Night Rallies, Vagina Monologues, talking circles, the list goes on.

But I had never seen or felt the type of energy they had when they talked about Green Dot. What was it? Simple: they were hopeful. Green Dot is filled with hope. And hope is what fuels our movement. Hope is what has fueled any social movement for change. People must believe their actions can make a difference. By definition, when people believe their actions make a difference, they do. They were right to be hopeful.

In September of 2014 the Center for Disease Control released results from a five-year study evaluating the program in Kentucky high schools. The study found a greater than 50 percent reduction in the self-reported frequency of sexual violence perpetration by students at schools that received the Green Dot training, compared to a slight increase at schools that did not.

It’s important to know that Green Dot is intended to be implemented as a supplement to—not a replacement for—broader, long-term social justice and anti-oppression work. I am both personally and professionally committed to these broader movements of social change. But I also realize the urgency of preventing violence right now. I’ve spent nights in the ER with victim/survivors during evidentiary exams; I’ve worked with youth disclosing they’d been raped at party; I know the intensity and impact of sexual violence. And I want fewer people to experience it, starting today.

My vision is that you will not only know about Green Dot, but you’ll feel it. You’ll feel hopeful that we can drastically reduce the rates at which our students experience sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking—not that five or ten students will be spared this kind of trauma 100 years from now, but 100 students one year from now, thousands of students five years from now. I know Green Dot is just one effort among many to prevent violence on our campus. I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about your efforts and how we can support each other in this work.

The LDCW is pleased to announce that Rachel Harris, Associate Dean of Students, and Abigail Crouse, General Counsel, will hold a meeting on the UST Sexual Misconduct Policy for Faculty and Staff at the LDCW on April 17, 3-4:30 p.m. Please attend this session which will welcome and address questions and input from the floor.
Hello! My name is Jessica Gjerde, and I am the Education Program Director for Student Diversity & Inclusion Services. This semester I am taking on a new role as advisor for the Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) student club. I am thrilled about this opportunity and honored to have been asked to advise the group!

I grew up in Spirit Lake, Iowa with my mom and younger brother. I obtained my undergraduate degree from Gustavus Adolphus College (GAC) in Music with a concentration in vocal performance. After graduation, I decided to pursue a career in student affairs, and I am currently enrolled in the M.A. Leadership in Student Affairs program at UST. Prior to my current position, I worked for the Dean of Students office and Student Diversity & Inclusion Services at UST as a graduate assistant. I also worked for Full Sail University and GAC in admissions. I am passionate about sharing my story and helping other marginalized students succeed in college.

I look forward to working with QSA to bring more visibility and engagement to the club. We are in an exciting time at the University, and I hope to be a strong advocate for the students. Many thanks to Carey Winkler and Dr. Cara Anthony for supporting me in this new role!

Grant Opportunities

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is pleased to offer several grant opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. Information for all grants and awards is available on our website:

- Undergraduate Fellowship for Research on Topics Related to Women
- Graduate Student Fellowship for Research on Topics Related to Women
- Curriculum Development Grant
- Professional Development Award
- Small Grant
- Female Student Leadership Grant
- Scholarships for Women’s Studies Majors

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<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Studies Scholarship</td>
<td>March 6, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Student Leadership Grant</td>
<td>March 20, 2015</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Fellowship March 20, 2015</td>
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<td>Graduate Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Development Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Studies Faculty Project Development Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Grant</td>
<td>Applications are accepted throughout the year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development Award</td>
<td>Applications are accepted throughout the year</td>
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2014-15 Award Recipients:

The LDCW Undergraduate Research Fellowship:
Morgan Schreurs, Majors in Political Science and Women’s Studies; Minor in English (Faculty Advisor: Angela High-Pippert)

The LDCW Graduate Research Fellowship:
Erin Heisler, English (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kanishka Chowdhury); Barbara Quade-Harick, Art History (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Heather Shirey)

Women’s Studies Fellowship:

LDCW Leadership Grant: Madelyn Larsin
Progress Reports from 2014-15 Fellowship Recipients:


While women and politics scholars have identified the gender gap in political ambition between men and women, the literature lacks analysis of differences amongst women. The purpose of my research is to thus explore the differences in political ambition between women who grew up in rural areas and those who were raised in more urban areas of Minnesota. “Homegrown: The Political Ambition of Rural- and Urban-bred Women” is a two-part study: 1) intensive interviews with eight women involved in politics and public policy, and 2) surveys distributed to politically-involved college women across the state of Minnesota. In developing the methods with the aid of Dr. High-Pippert, we applied a feminist lens in order to allow for self-description of the women’s diverse motives and expand political ambition narratives beyond the bounds of electoral politics. This study contributes to our understanding of the gender gap in political ambition by focusing on both place of origin and college-aged women.

“Homegrown” stemmed from my own experiences as a “farm kid” and Dr. H-P’s Women and Politics course. I began the study this past summer and have since completed the eight interviews. As we move into breaking down the qualitative data, we will also be distributing the surveys this winter. On a more exciting note, Dr. High-Pippert and I will be co-writing a paper, which has been accepted for presentation at a national political science conference (MPSA).

LDCW funding is critically important to this research. Without it, I never would have been able to set aside the time to pursue “Homegrown.” This funding has allowed me to take that logical next step as a budding scholar, take ownership over a piece of primary analysis, and perhaps most tangibly, it has given my application a boost as I aim for graduate school. Thank you for your support.

Barbara Quade-Harick on Maya Deren’s Work

Between 1947 and 1954, American filmmaker Maya Deren, intrigued by the spectacle of Vodou dance, traveled to Haiti and recorded ceremonies on film and in a book, both named Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti, that today are important primary documents for the study of Haitian culture and Black identity in the Atlantic region. The Graduate Student Fellowship gave me opportunities to travel to Boston and New York City last summer to study Deren’s papers and visit where her original film is stored. Combing through Deren’s papers housed at Boston University, I discovered the extent to which Deren struggled to gain recognition for her film. Seeing her handwritten notes and drafts, her film negatives, and correspondences gave me invaluable insight to her determination to express the truth about Haitian Vodou and its people. I am grateful to the Center for support of my research, which I hope will bring attention to Deren’s work.

Erin Heisler on Online Feminism

I have received an immense amount of professional and academic support and encouragement through the research fellowship from the LDCW. I have been working to apply the theoretical texts from my studies to the online feminism that touches my day-to-day life for some time. This funding, and subsequently the research time it provides, has allowed me a chance to fully engage with the intersection of social media and activism. I have been given the opportunity to test out new research methodologies and engage with theories and texts without the pressure of a final essay deadline. As such, this fellowship has allowed me to move beyond my comfort level, and really push myself to think critically in new ways. For this, I am overwhelmingly appreciative.
KAITLYN (Slieter) McbrADY
Graduate Leadership in Student Affairs, new graduate student representative at the LDCW Advisory Board

I have been active at UST since August 2014, working as the Graduate Intern in Disability Resources and the Graduate Assistant in the Wellness Center. I am impressed by and thankful for the warm welcome from the UST community and look forward to learning, working, and sharing with you all.

I grew up in rural Minnesota and obtained an undergraduate degree in sociology, French, and English at the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. I worked as a Student One Stop Counselor on the UMM campus after graduation but had my eye on the Leadership in Student Affairs MA program at St. Thomas. Luckily, a recent (October 2014) wedding to a current William Mitchell law student helped push my move to St. Paul.

I have been active and involved in addressing women empowerment and advocacy. In my work as an undergraduate student, I wrote an extensive research paper dissecting the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series through a sociological lens, analyzing the depiction of BDSM and abuse of women. I presented this research at a conference hosted by UMM during Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Currently, I’m involved in the upcoming mentoring program at UST, *Learning Skills for a Successful Life*. This program, made possible through the UST Women’s Connect grant, is a semester-long mentoring program for second-year women at UST. I’m honored to serve on the LDCW Advisory Board and hope to continue to make UST an inclusive, relevant, and supportive campus.

LDCW Yarn Tamers

JESSIE McSHANE

The Yarn Tamers had a great fall semester with a record student turn out and high weekly attendance. The two projects YT’s focused on last semester were the annual donations for the Alexandra House for Battered Women and “Brave Bundles,” a non-profit that provides baby blankets for military families who have babies while overseas & to U.S families who have baby while a spouse is deployed. We were able to drop off about 6 hand crafted blankets to the Alexandra House as well as some donations the campus community dropped off at the LDCW. The blankets were a result of squares the Yarn Tamers collaboratively knit which then get sewn together for one big blanket and the Alexandra House was so appreciative! For the “Brave Bundles” the YT’s have collaborated with ROTC on campus to mail out the blankets.

We had three baby blankets in total that went out to three different families while their spouse was deployed. All in all it was a great fall semester capped off by a wonderful Yarn Tamers Christmas gathering. Everyone is welcome to join YT’s and if you are a beginner or would like to learn to knit or crochet we would be happy to help! We meet on Tuesdays from noon – 1 p.m. in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103).
REPORT ON THE SECOND TOMMIE TALKS

MORGAN SCHREURS,
FemCom Co-Facilitator & Undergraduate Representative of the LDCW Advisory Board

The vision of the LDCW includes providing opportunities for students to interact with women role models, as well as offering a meeting place for women to share their expertise and experience. On September 30, the LDCW hosted our second annual Tommie Talks, a speed-mentoring event for women, where both parts of this vision were fulfilled. 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 opportunities to ask questions in an intimate setting about the unique rewards, challenges, and benefits women in the workplace are experiencing, while simultaneously building a greater sense of UST community across generations.

Spring 2015 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. 28 (W) ...............LDCW Book Club, Susan Strayed, Wild, Noon-1 p.m.
Feb. 13 (F).............Open House/Chocolate Reception, 2-4 p.m. (TMH, Fireside lounge, Minneapolis)
Feb. 20 (F)..............Feminist Friday, Carly Dent, Noon-1 p.m.
Feb. 25 (W) .............LDCW Book Club, Winona LaDuke, All Our Relations, Noon-1 p.m.
Feb. 27 (F)..............Women's Studies Student Conference, 3:30-8 p.m. (St. Catherine University)
Mar. 3 (T)..............UAWE Panel on Work-Family Balance, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Mar. 10 (T).............2015 Women's History Month Speaker, Winona LaDuke, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Mar. 25 (W).............LDCW Book Club, Barbara Kingsolver, Flight Behavior, Noon-1 p.m.
\hspace{1.5cm}SDIS Speaker, Piper Kerman, 7 p.m. (ASC)
Apr. 9 (Th).............UAWE Spring Reception, 3:30 – 5 p.m. (McNeely 100)
Apr. 10 (F)..............Feminist Friday, Dr. Kim Miller, Noon-1 p.m. (OEC 103)
\hspace{1.5cm}ACTC Women's Studies Conference, 3-8 p.m. (Augsburg)
Apr. 17 (F)..............Forum on the UST Sexual Misconduct Policy, 3–4:30 p.m.
\hspace{1.5cm}UST Allies Night of Noise, starting at 5 p.m. in ASC LL07 (dance space)
Apr. 23 (Th)...........Conversation with Irish Poet, Paula Meehan, Noon-1 p.m.
Apr. 24 (F)..............Reception for the WMST graduates and Triota Honors recipients, 3 p.m.
Apr. 29 (W).............LDCW Book Club, Barbara Kingsolver, Flight Behavior (Continued), noon-1 p.m.
May 1 (Th).............LDCW Grant Recipients Reception, Noon-1 p.m.
May 27 (W).............LDCW Book Club, Susan Power, Sacred Wilderness, noon-1 p.m.
Contact:
Telephone: (651) 962-6119
From this number you can access hours and leave a message.

Staff:
Dr. Young-ok An
Director/Editor of Many Voices
Jessie McShane
Administrative Assistant

Student Assistants:
Bailey Fischer
Michelle Miller
Morgan Schreurs
Emma Kopp
Madelyn Larsin
Shannon Twiss