

# Many Voices

2022-2023 University of St. Thomas

## LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN RETROSPECTIVE: 2022-2023 "WOMEN AND HEALTHCARE"




A magazine of the University of St. Thomas Luann Dummer Center for Women, the University Advocates for Women and Equity, and the WGSS Program

# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



From the health disparities brought to light through the Covid-19 pandemic to the national discourse on women's health, **"Women and Healthcare"** felt like an essential theme for 2022-2023. As such, the Women's Center had the opportunity to crack open and explore the complexities of women's health through the lenses of biology, history, Argentinian culture, sexual orientation, politics, film, novels, poetry, and beyond. It was a year of learning and much-needed dialogue. It was also a year of much-needed community, as it was the first year since the pandemic--since Tarana Burke graced our campus as our 2020 Women's History Month Speaker--where programs returned to being fully and consistently in-person.

2022-2023 was a year of bringing back the essence of the LDCW: finding and creating community in the warm, welcoming, and supportive space Luann envisioned thirty years ago. The monthly programs of Making Waves and Book Circles returned to monthly programs, building a rich curriculum for exploration and various perspectives on Women's Health. The weekly community program Yarn Tamers met in person again every week--not on zoom!-- with both returning and new students, staff, faculty, and community members enjoying this unique connection over craft. The undergraduate group FemCom crackled with energy, addressing a much-needed dose of self-care for our student body, from casual coffee bars to screenprinting T-shirts to creating friendship bracelets. Although without our beloved Women's History Month speaker, March of 2023 was instead filled with collaborations across campus, creating programs and partnerships that highlighted the diverse collection of women's voices that St. Thomas is so fortunate to hold.




The vibrancy of the Women's Center, the return of constituents in its space, even the return of fish to the fish tank, all marked a refreshing optimism and anchoring sense of community whose consistency had been missing--and missed-- since March 2020. As this past year was navigated without a director, I personally want to mention here my gratitude for those who worked with me to create the programs you will read about in the following pages. The support, guidance, participation, and hard work of our incredibly devoted student worker team, LDCW Advisory Board, and the remarkable staff and faculty who collaborated with the Center this past year were invaluable, expanding our programs in a multitude of ways. As always, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies remained a substantial partner and appears many times in our programs. My deepest thanks to everyone: for their collaboration, for illustrating the power of community, and for helping the Women's Center return with reinvigorated strength and spirit.

While this issue is mostly a review of our 2022-2023 programming, we have a very exciting year ahead! This year marks the 30th Anniversary of Dr. Luann Dummer's legacy. See our calendar of upcoming celebrations and events on page 35, as well as an exciting announcement about our 2024 Women's History Month Speaker (page 19)!

We are also excited to announce our 2023-2024 Director, Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi! Dr. Ahmadi is an associate professor of history at St. Thomas; her research and teaching focus on the Islamic world, particularly the Middle East and North Africa (more on page 34).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Christine Balsley  
Program Manager, Luann Dummer Center for Women  
Editor | Designer, *Many Voices Magazine*

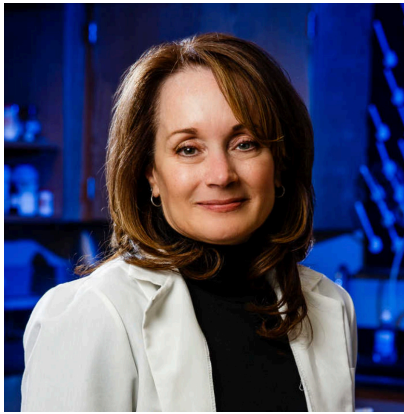


# MAKING WAVES 2022-2023

With collaborations throughout campus, our 2022-2023 Making Waves program examined "Women & Healthcare" across both disciplines and the globe.

## OCTOBER WITH DR. JILL MANSKE

### WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH 101



**Dr. Jill Manske**  
Professor Emerita, Biology

The students of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 205 kicked off our first Making Waves event of the year by teaming up with Dr. Jill Manske, Professor Emerita of Biology, to explore "Women's Reproductive Health 101."

Dr. Manske discussed the history of women's reproductive health in the United States, from the Comstock Act of 1873 through the Dobbs decision of 2022. She provided an in-depth biological overview of the female reproductive system, supplying participants with a foundation for making decisions about their own personal reproductive health as well as tools for engaging in informed discourse and debate on this important and timely topic.

## NOVEMBER WITH DR. JENNA BROWNFIELD

### PROTECTING AND NURTURING YOUR LGBTQIA+ IDENTITIES WHEN BACK AT HOME

With the holidays fast approaching, Dr. Jenna Brownfield, a counseling psychologist and adjunct professor in the Psychology department, led this November talk and Q & A focusing on tools and techniques for LGBTQIA+ students heading home for the holidays.

Sharing her experience and encouraging others' stories, this brainstorming session provided ways to prepare for potential challenges, grow existing relationships from home, and continue connecting with one's identities. This event was co-organized with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as the STEM Inclusive Excellence Program.



**Dr. Jenna Brownfield**  
Adjunct Professor, Psychology

# MAKING WAVES 2022-2023

**DECEMBER** WITH DR. PAOLA EHRMANTRAUT

## WOMEN'S HEALTH IN ARGENTINA IN THE #NIUNAMENOS CONTEXT



Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut, Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Associate Professor of Spanish, led an enlightening discussion on women's healthcare in Argentina. Weaving together Argentina's political history, protest movements such as Niunamenos, different cultural interpretations of feminism, and an overarching goal of health democracy, Dr. Ehrmantraut delivered a rich and thoughtful discussion on what healthcare looks like beyond the United States.

**Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut**

Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Associate Professor of Spanish

**FEBRUARY** WITH GIGI GIORDANO

## TAKE PRIDE: QUEER RELATIONSHIPS

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, GiGi Giordano, Staff Psychologist at the Center for Well-Being as well as Liaison to LGBTQIA+ students at St. Thomas, led a workshop on communication, relationship patterns, and supporting ourselves and our friends. Attended by faculty, staff, and students, this hour was one of story-sharing and connection.

This event was a collaboration with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.



**GiGi Giordano**

Training Director/ Staff Psychologist, Center for Well-Being

# MAKING WAVES 2022-2023

## MARCH WITH APRIL O'BRIEN

### WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN HEALTHCARE



**April O'Brien**  
Director for Operations  
Center for Well-Being

In celebration of Women's History Month and in support of the Women's Center's 2022-2023 theme "Women and Healthcare," April O'Brien of the Center for Well-Being brought together a panel of local women leaders representing various areas of healthcare to highlight the numerous and varied career paths and opportunities within the healthcare industry. From backgrounds in emergency medicine to genetic therapy to corporate positions at Target, this group of women described, as one said, the series of "left turns" that led to successful, leadership roles within the healthcare industry.

## Women's Leadership in Healthcare



**Colleen Fitzgerald Lorenz**  
Chief Operating Officer of  
Lorenz Clinic, Family Psychology  
Healthcare MBA



**Andrea Sweeney Claussen**  
Director, Center for Cardiac  
Surgical Services, Allina  
BA: Entrepreneurship  
Masters in Business  
Administration



**Jessica Lemker**  
Nurse Practitioner | Clinic Man-  
ager, Center for Well-Being,  
University of St. Thomas  
Background in emergency  
medicine; Doctoral degree in  
Nursing Practice

# MAKING WAVES 2022-2023

## APRIL WITH DR. SHAHERZAD AHMADI

### IRAN'S MEDICAL MARKETPLACE



**Dr. Shaherzad Ahmad**

Assistant Professor of History

How did Iran, an oil-rich country invested in public welfare programs, approach the practice of medicine, reproductive care, and the cost of treatment? Prohibitively expensive healthcare and discomfort with western medicine led to a flourishing of non-western curatives. In fact, women, in particular, made their voices heard in the noisy medical marketplace of the twentieth

century. Led by Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi, assistant professor of the History Department, April's Making Waves explored the intersection of faith, modernity, and gender in the practice of medicine in Iran.

## MAY WITH GRETCHEN BURAU

### ASMAT WRITING WORKSHOP

For our final Making Waves on "Women and Healthcare," Gretchen Burau, Director of the American Museum of Asmat Art (AMAA), led a writing workshop focused on the Asmat communities of Papua New Guinea, particularly women's roles as caretakers.

Presenting objects from the AMAA collection as well as featuring a short film about Asmat women, Gretchen offered a deeper understanding of Asmat art and culture to the St. Thomas community. With the prompt of women role models, participants then created a personal narrative, with the option of turning it into a zine at the create[space].



More on Gretchen and the AMAA can be found on page 18!



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2023

The Luann Dummer Center for Women celebrated women throughout the entire month of March! Partnering with various departments, it was truly a month of community and celebration.

## March 1st

### Make Up Workshop with Narges Mohammadimajed

March started out with a lively and fun community event organized by LDCW student worker Narges Mohammadimajed and featuring make up artist Niloofer Valipour.

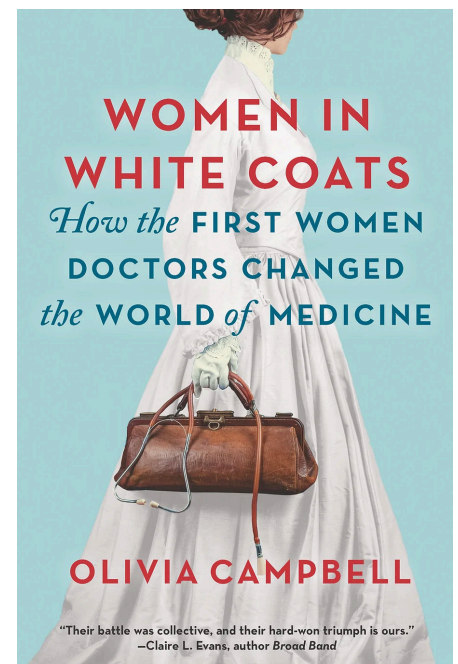


## March 7th

### March Book Circle

#### Women in White Coats: How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine

Led by April O'Brien from the Center for Well-Being, discussion revolved around the history of women in healthcare and how academia influenced--and shifted-- societal roles and challenges for women in the medical profession.





# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2023

## March 8th: International Women Day!

### International Women's Day Panel

*with the Office of International Students and Scholars*



In celebration of International Women's Day, the LDCW and OISS hosted a reception and panel comprised of students, faculty, and staff from eight different countries, gathering to share stories and experiences as women across the globe.

**Above:** Sheila Yeh, associate vice provost for University Libraries, addresses the audience.

**Below Right:** Blessed Uwase discusses her first week at St. Thomas upon arrival from Rwanda .



**Above left:** Panelists included (from left): Lois Arterberry, Sheila Yeh, Marcella de la Torre (Facilitator), Paola Ehrmantraut, Marta Pereira, Nguyen Phan (Lucky), Blessed Uwase, Luana Karl Arruda, and Lezhi Tang.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2023

## March 9th

### Narrative of a Woman Marine



Along with Student Diversity and Inclusion Services, Veterans Services brought in St. Thomas alumna Allison Jorgensen to discuss her experience as a woman marine. Allison both informed and entertained the constituents of this well-attended event, providing not only guidance and encouragement toward various career paths, but a sense of connection through her sharing and storytelling.

## March 15th

### Making Waves:

### Women's Leadership in Healthcare

An inspiring discussion for students, staff, and faculty, this dynamic panel of local healthcare leaders discussed the various, and oftentimes unexpected, paths toward leadership in healthcare.

This event was facilitated by April O'Brien, Director of Operations for the Center for Well-Being at the University of St. Thomas.

*Women's History Month with the LDCW*

### Women's Leadership in Healthcare

 <p>Colleen Fitzgerald Lorenz Chief Operating Officer Lorenz Clinic, Family Psychology</p>	 <p>Andrea Sweeney Claussen Director, Center for Cardiac Surgical Services, Allina</p>	 <p>Jessica Lemker Nurse Practitioner   Clinic Manager Center for Well-Being, St. Thomas</p>
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# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2023

## Annual Women's History Month Photo Contest

"Gender Equality &  
Women's Empowerment"



HELP US CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

OPEN SUBMISSIONS  
FEBRUARY 13 TO MARCH 10

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:  
[HTTPS://LINK.STTHOMAS.EDU/PHOTO](https://link.stthomas.edu/photo)

1ST PLACE: \$200 TOMMIE SHOP  
2ND PLACE: \$150 TOMMIE SHOP  
3RD PLACE: \$100 TOMMIE SHOP



create [space]

Luann Dummer  
Center for Women



Throughout Women's History Month, the LDCW partnered with **create[space]** and the **Photography Club** for the annual photography contest, with this year's theme

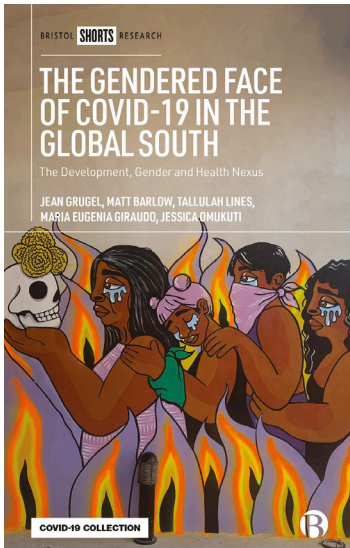
"Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment."

Prizes included gift cards to the Tommie Shop!

# LDCW 2022-2023 BOOK CIRCLE

## "WOMEN AND HEALTHCARE"

From articles to novels to documentaries, 2022-2023 Book Circles explored "Women and Healthcare" from perspectives across nationalities, gender, class, history, and more.

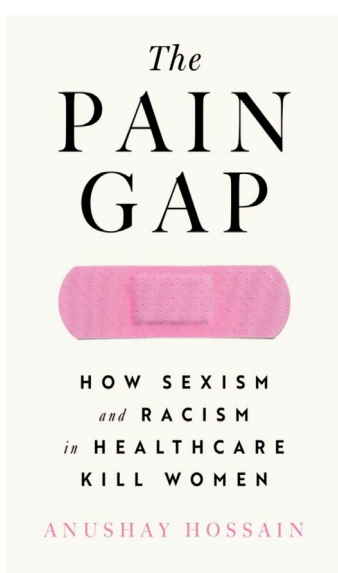


### OCTOBER

#### **Women's Healthcare in Argentina: Feminist Movement and Access to Health Care**

Led by Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut

Referencing the article "Exacerbating Inequalities: Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health" from *The Gendered Face of COVID-19 in the Global South* along with various images, sounds, and videos, Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut led discussion on various activist movements for women's health in Argentina.

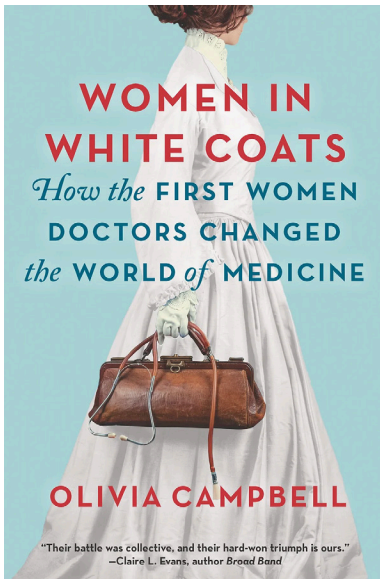


### DECEMBER

#### **The Pain Gap: How Sexism and Racism in Healthcare Kill Women**

by Anushay Hossain

Meticulously researched and deeply reported, this "must-read" (per Soraya Chemaly, author of *Rage Becomes Her*) book explores real women's traumatic experiences with America's healthcare system—and empowers everyone to use their experiences to bring about the healthcare revolution women need. This Book Circle was organized and led by LDCW student worker and nursing major, Brianna Hansch.



## MARCH

### **Women in White Coats: How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine**

by Olivia Campbell

Our Women's History Month Book Circle explored our 2022-23 theme "Women and Healthcare" by diving into this 2021 New York Times Bestseller. Led by April O'Brien, Director of Operations at the Center for Well-Being, discussion encompassed the little-known history of women doctors and was peppered with stories from discussion participants.

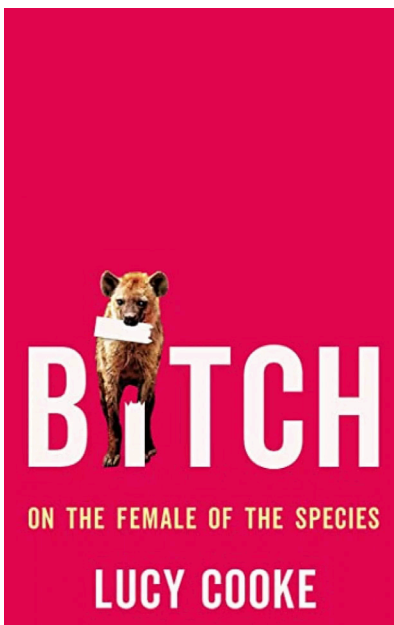


## APRIL

### **The House is Black: The Works of Forugh Farrokhzad**

Led by Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi

Exploring both Farrokhzad's poetry as well as a clip from her 1963 critically acclaimed short documentary *The House is Black*, this discussion revolved around illness, culture, and gender.



## MAY

### **Bitch: On the Female of the Species**

by Lucy Cooke

Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and the Luann Dummer Center for Women teamed up with Dr. Sarah Heimovics' "Animal Behavior" class for this "fierce, funny, and revolutionary look at the queens of the animal kingdom." Dr. Heimovics' class brought questions and knowledge to navigate a lively discussion on a fascinating and enlightening book centering on the female of the species.

# WOMEN, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES NEWS



**Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut**  
 Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
 Associate Professor of Spanish

WGSS was busy through the 2022-2023 academic year! With program collaborations across campus, including American Culture and Difference, STEM, and the Center for Well-Being, as well as multiple Making Waves and Book Circle events with the Luann Dummer Center for Women, we continued our work toward building a culture of academic dialogue for our community!

**MAKING WAVES**  
 WITH DR. PAOLA EHRMANTRAUT

"WOMEN'S HEALTH IN ARGENTINA IN THE #NIUNAMENOS CONTEXT"



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
 3:30 - 4:30 PM  
 LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN (OEC 103)



**DR. CHARISSE BURDEN-STELLY**

**The "Late" W.E.B. Du Bois and the Practice of Mutual Comradship**

Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
 O'Shaughnessy Education Center Auditorium  
 7 - 8:30 P.M. | In-person

American Culture and Difference College of Arts and Sciences | St.Thom

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH MOVIE NIGHT**  
 LDCW OEC 103  
 TUESDAY 10/4 6-8PM

**STREET HEROINES**  
 THE FEARLESS LATINX ARTISTS OF THE GRAFFITI AND STREET ART MOVEMENT

ORGANIZED BY: FILM, MCL, LDCW, ARTH, LACS & WGSS

**MAN ENOUGH SERIES**  
 a series on Healthy Masculinity

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
 THURSDAY, MARCH 30  
 5:00-6:30 pm • OEC Auditorium

**Panel Members:**





**Marlon Blake**  
 Assistant Dean of Students

**Paola Ehrmantraut**  
 Assoc. Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Vern Klobassa**  
 Director of Student Development & Co-Director of First-Year Experience

Center for Well-Being | St.Thomas

# CENTER FOR WELL-BEING: HEALTH PROMOTION, RESILIENCE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION



**Seth Quam, MSW, MPH**  
Health Promotion and  
Violence Prevention Program

Don't Cancel That Class!

Whether you're a professor looking ahead at your class schedule and figuring out what your students are going to do when you're away at a conference, a student organization looking to learn more about violence prevention, or a club sports team looking to be active bystanders to prevent violence, **request a presentation** from the Center for Well-Being website!

Presentation topics include: Healthy Relationships, Sexual Violence Prevention 101, Bystander Intervention, and Healthy Masculinity.

The Center for Well-Being's Health Promotion, Resilience, and Violence Prevention department has a jam-packed 2023 fall semester full of programming on healthy relationships, bystander intervention, sexual violence prevention, healthy masculinity, yoga, TRE: Tension Release Exercises, and more! Find them all on **Tommie Link**.

Check out these upcoming events:

**MAN ENOUGH:**  
A SERIES ON HEALTHY MASCULINITY

MONDAY **October 16**  
**ASC 238** | 1:30 - 2:30 PM

**MASCULINITY**  
on **COLLEGE**  
**CAMPUSES**  
what is  
rape culture?

**SERIES: 2**

Center for Well-Being | St. Thomas

*creating a safe  
and healthy  
community*

**BYSTANDER  
INTERVENTION  
TRAINING**

JOIN US  
**4<sup>th</sup> MONDAYS**  
1:30 - 2:30 pm

**SNACKS**  
provided

Center for Well-Being | St. Thomas

**Something to think about: Sexual Violence is a Men's Issue!** For decades, sexual violence prevention was focused on how to keep women and girls safe. Since the vast majority of sexual violence is caused by men, perhaps the best way to keep everyone safe is by promoting healthy, authentic versions of masculinity that include consent and non-violent relationships!

# LUANN DUMMER'S ART GALLERY

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the Luann Dummer Center for Women was able to host exhibits from our surrounding community, sparking conversation, new ideas, as well as connection to both the St. Thomas and greater Twin Cities community.

## THE CESAREAN SCAR COLLECTION



As the most common surgery in the United States, Cesarean sections, better known as C-sections, are how one third of babies enter the world, how one million

**Emily Kindlespire** women and pregnant St. Thomas Alumna people a year meet their babies. For some, having a Cesarean is planned, for others, it becomes evident that one is needed. **Then there are the Cesareans that are offered after other interventions haven't worked and labor has been too interrupted. I fell into this last group.**



After my planned home birth ended in the operating room for a non-emergent turned emergent Cesarean section, I was left in a postpartum period ripe with sadness, grief and trauma. For nearly 18 months a chorus of "whys" played in my head, sometimes so loudly that I feared this was my





new normal and at times so softly that I'd almost forget it was there. I found solace in a local ICAN (International Cesarean Awareness Network) support group, in addition to my therapists Mira and Kelsey, and the support from my postpartum doula, Joy. In these places I was able to begin hearing the individual "whys".

Through my experience and the stories that had been shared with me, I began noticing the range of emotions connected to Cesareans and their notable scars. **Like the rest of our bodies, our Cesarean scars hold memories and stories.** I found the "noise" on the internet about what these specific scars mean- warrior, surrender, birth- to be dissonant. I found the default scar that search engines churn out- a pale pink, slightly-turned-up-on-the-ends scar on a white body- to be too "perfect". I set out to create a project where people who have had Cesareans could see themselves in one another's stories and scars and not just the default ones online or in the media. I wanted to create a space where all of the meanings we make and are making about our Cesarean scars could exist.

I asked: "Does the imagery that currently exists reflect how Cesarean scars change/heal overtime?" and "Do current narratives reflect the relationship we have with our Cesarean scars?"

Twenty five women volunteered to be photographed and I collected nearly thirty five reflections and birth stories. **As I worked to create the exhibit I was moved by the intimacy in knowing these women by their Cesarean scars, of the trust they gave to me to be a keeper of their stories.** From the inception of the project, I knew that I wanted it displayed at the Luann Dummer Center for Women (LDCW). I completed my undergrad at St. Thomas and the LDCW was instrumental in how I have come to understand myself in the world: where I found and practiced listening to my inner voice, where I felt safe sharing intimately. The exhibit was on display from mid-April to mid-July, where countless folks had a chance to engage with this side of birth, a side that often needs longer than the 6-week check up to heal.

You can view the collection online at <https://www.ourcesareanscars.org/>



# LUANN DUMMER'S ART GALLERY

## AMAA: AMERICAN MUSEUM OF ASMAT ART



Asmat homelands lie within the province of Papua, Indonesia in southwestern New Guinea. Artists from this region are among the most prolific wood sculptors and weavers in the Pacific Islands.



Village of Sawa in Asmat

**Gretchen Burau**  
Director, AMAA

The American Museum of Asmat Art (AMAA) has one of the largest collections

of Asmat art in North America with nearly 3,000 objects dating from the mid-20th century to the present. The collection was originally formed by missionaries from the American Crosier Fathers and Brothers, under the leadership of Bishop Alphonse Sowada. This Catholic Order arrived in Asmat in 1958 and acquired works through purchase, trade, and as gifts. The collection was donated to St. Thomas in 2007 and given a permanent home on the second floor of the Anderson Student Center in 2012. Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the LDCW hosted AMAA pieces reflective of our exhibit "Power and Presence: Water in Asmat," along with a QR code linked to gather comments and create conversation among gallery visitors.



### AMAA Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10 AM - 4 PM

Thursdays, 10 AM - 8 PM

Fridays, 10 AM - 2 PM

Saturdays, 12 PM - 4 PM

Sundays & Mondays, Closed

# LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN 2024 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER

## ALISON BECHDEL

MARCH 4, 2024 | OEC AUDITORIUM

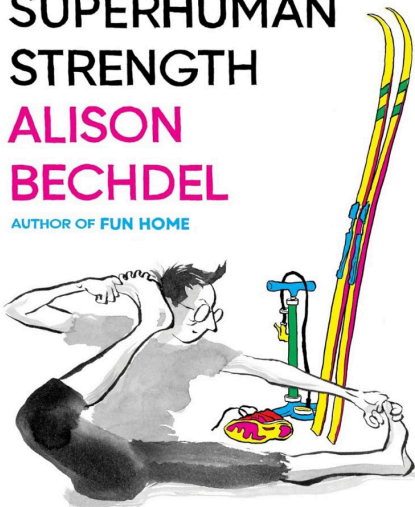


Alison Bechdel is an internationally beloved cartoonist whose darkly humorous graphic memoirs, astute writing, and evocative drawing have forged an unlikely intimacy with a wide and disparate range of readers. Bechdel's comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" gave rise to the now famous "Bechdel Test," which measures gender bias in film. Bechdel's *Fun Home* was adapted into a hit Broadway musical.

THE  
SECRET TO  
SUPERHUMAN  
STRENGTH

ALISON  
BECHDEL

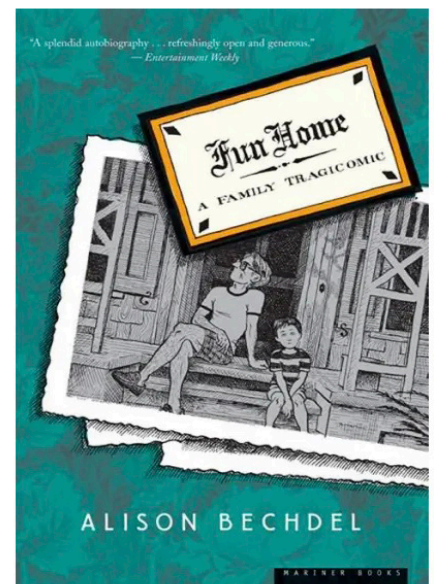
AUTHOR OF FUN HOME



DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR



ALISON BECHDEL Author of FUN HOME



# FEMINIST COMMUNITY (FEMCOM)



**Maddie Schutte**

Majors: English, Professional Writing, and WGSS  
Class of 2025

The Feminist Community (Fem Com) consists of student co-facilitators who work together to balance the acts of creating an inclusive space on campus in the LDCW, and working toward making campus as a whole more inclusive. Fem Com's presence on campus had been minimal post-COVID, so we spent the 2022-23 school year attempting to garner interest back into the club. We started the year with various community building events within the club, such as bracelet making, a create [space] trip, seasonal crafts, and self-care events. These more light-hearted activities allowed for students to become comfortable with the club, meet other like-minded folks, and opened up the LDCW to new faces. **One of the most common responses we received from students about Fem Com was how they were so grateful to have heard about the LDCW space, and how it felt like a comforting escape on campus.**

This coming school year we are aiming to create a stronger balance between enacting change on campus, as well as providing a space for club bonding. Through our programming during the last school year, we hope that a strong base of members was established so we can move forward with being more influential in student life. Upcoming collaborations with other clubs, as well as the Center for Well-Being and Violence Prevention program, are on the horizon for Fem Com this coming school year.

We hope that the LDCW and Fem Com continue to be an intersectionality-inclusive space where we can offer support and solace to students when needed.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings - member or not - to grow our club and the support system that has blossomed within it.



# GRADUATE FEMCOM



## **Maria Helena Buitrago Cohoon**

Graduate School of Professional Psychology  
MA, Counseling Psychology (2020)  
Psy.D., Counseling Psychology (2024)  
Graduate Rep, LDCW Advisory Board

Graduate Feminist Community, or Grad FemCom, is a feminist community geared toward graduate students whose members represent a wide variety of academic programs. **Inspired by the work of the undergraduate Feminist Community (FemCom), Grad FemCom focuses on the ways we can grow as feminists personally AND professionally.** From our Kickoff in the 2022 fall semester, the members of Grad FemCom decided the group would be a combination of two elements: education and professional development as well as support and community building.

For the education/professional development part, Maria Helena, as graduate representative, prepared

information to disseminate about feminist or women's issues in the workplace. Some proposed topics for the year included salary negotiations, emotional vulnerability, and balancing career and family goals.

Support included the opportunity to share experiences and be validated by the group, as well as getting to know each other and informally networking. Additionally, meetings traditionally ended with members sharing articles, books, and other media related to the topics discussed that other members may enjoy. Meeting summaries and suggested media were then shared to members who could not attend through the listserv. We held two on-campus socials on both the St. Paul and Minneapolis campus to meet in person with other Grad FemCom members.

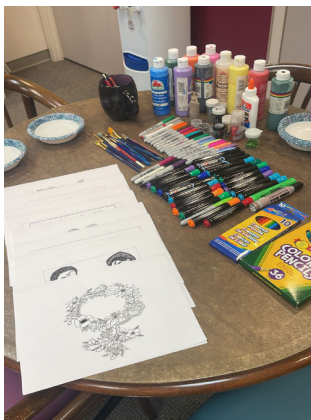
**Grad FemCom meetings are always open to all interested graduate students at the University of St. Thomas.** Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, meetings occurred monthly on zoom. Due to member's busy schedules, meetings would be pre-set at the beginning of the semester, each month having a meeting on a different day of the week to try and accommodate as many schedules as possible. If you are interested in being added to the Grad FemCom list serv, or want to learn more, please email the **Luann Dummer Center for Women.**

# WOMEN'S CENTER TEAM PROJECTS

Each academic year, student workers at the Luann Dummer Center for Women are tasked with creating and implementing a project of their own choosing, the only parameters being that it aligns with the LDCW mission and bolsters existing programs. Here is what the 2022-2023 team members came up with!

## Paint with Me Gender-Based Violence Prevention with Daniela Farfan Arevalo

What does it mean to be a woman in Latin America? I have asked myself this question on countless occasions and I always find various factors that alter the answer in whole or in part. I am originally from Ecuador, a small, mega-diverse country, with multiple positive aspects, but unfortunately also high rates of violence, specifically violence against women.



According to official figures for the year, in 2019 64.9% of the Ecuadorian female population had suffered some type of violence throughout their lives (INEC, 2019). These data involve countless negative consequences, shattered lives, and the desire to do something so that each case is not just another figure, does not go unpunished, and, above all, is not repeated. For this reason, when I was in law school, together with my professors, we devised a community project to prevent gender violence.

This project marked a before and after in my life and made me understand that positive actions must be replicated wherever I am. So, when I came to the Twin Cities for my master's degree and joined the Women's Center, I considered the necessity of prevention. I decided on a project I called "Paint with Me," a project that calls attention to the various types of violence so that women can identify the signs in time.

The project consisted of printing a series of images to inspire conversation while coloring, decorating, and being creative. This project allowed me to get closer to the community I am currently in and contribute to it from my perspective as an international student.

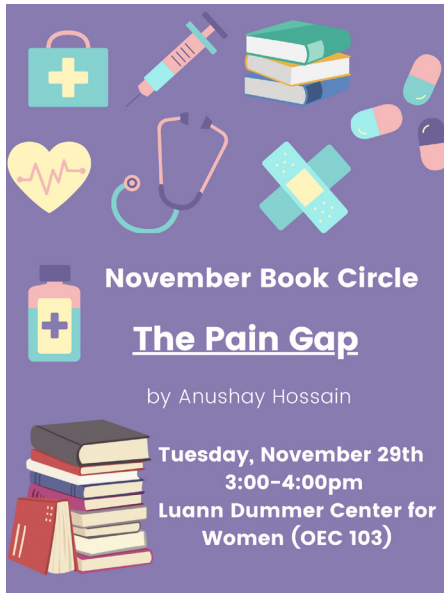
Daniela and fellow student worker  
Narges Mohammadimajed



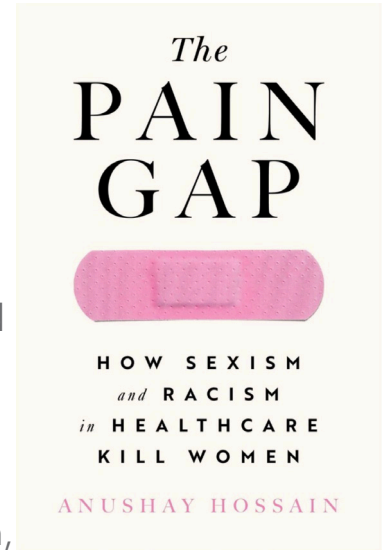
# WOMEN'S CENTER TEAM PROJECTS

## The Pain Gap

### November Book Circle with Brianna Hansch



LDCW team member and nursing major Brianna Hansch put together our November Book Circle. After surveying her professors on books that aligned with the LDCW 2023-2024 theme "Women and Healthcare," she chose Anushay Hossain's recent release *The Pain Gap: How Sexism and Racism in Healthcare Kill Women*. Brianna created publicity, read-along questions for the LDCW Instagram account, as well as questions for the in-person discussion--shifting her preparations around Minnesota's first big snow-storm of the season!--and delivered a thoughtful conversation on a

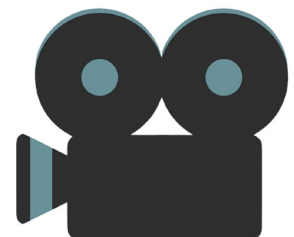


highly relevant and well-documented book. Per Brianna's invitation, one of her professors, and practicing nurse, Berline Pierre-Louis was in attendance, bringing another layer of insight to the conversation. Through her careful preparation, Brianna executed one of the LDCW's main programs while expanding her knowledge about her passion and future career.

## Women and Healthcare at St. Thomas

### A Docuseries with Chloe Rohl

Within LDCW student-worker projects we try to match the student's interests and talents with the Women's Center's mission and program needs. This year, we were happy to have Chloe Rohl on the team. Chloe's expertise with various audio visual tools as well as design programs, alongside her passion for storytelling, gave rise to an incredible docuseries project. Still in the making, this docuseries expands the 2022-2023 theme "Women and Healthcare" by exploring the stories of three health professionals on our very own St. Thomas campus. Stay tuned for a film screening of Chloe's incredible work!



# WOMEN'S CENTER TEAM PROJECTS

## Makeup Workshop

### Community Building with Narges Mohammadimajed



I have been a big fan of makeup for years; it is not just the transition through the makeup that fascinates me, but the joy I feel through the application process as well as the sense of creation it brings. But as a feminist, I also have questioned its necessity for women.

What I initially intended was an event that was simultaneously fun and educational-- students practicing makeup and having a discussion about it and its essence. I wanted to share my findings and thoughts about makeup and ensure space for others to do the same. Before the event happened my concerns were mainly twofold: first, how to publicize, and second, whether or not anyone would participate, or even be interested in discussing makeup. I decided that a workshop could involve all of our participants equally --and be very fun!

In preparation, I gathered snacks and cosmetics such as eye palettes and brushes. I also researched makeup artists and was pleased to find a St. Thomas graduate student, Niloofar Valipour (School of Engineering). On the day of the event, Niloofar started applying makeup for our first guest while the others gathered over snacks and tea while waiting for the workshop.

Participants were from different ethnicities and nationalities, some were even Iranian like me. What I found so interesting was that when we started sharing our experiences, our discussion went beyond makeup and turned into a friendly gathering where everyone felt comfortable to share about



Niloofar and workshop participant



# WOMEN'S CENTER TEAM PROJECTS

different aspects of their lives. This conversation continued and sharing grew as Niloofar led us through a workshop on tips about makeup application and skin-care, with room for discussion and questions. My favorite thing about the event was the laughs that we had and how comfortable everyone seemed throughout our one-hour gathering. I hope even more people will join us if we plan it again in the future!

## Fitness for All

### Campus Access with Maddie Schutte



**Fitness For All:**  
**Claiming the space & opportunity to exercise**

Join us in starting the conversation on how workout spaces on campus can be more welcoming and comfortable for people of all identities!

With Dr. Liz Wilkinson & the Luann Dummer Center for Women

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Wednesday, April 26th | 3:30pm  
LDCW (OEC 103)

After beginning my job at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, I felt overwhelmed with the amount of feminist issues on campus I might want to address for my student project. As I gathered a list of ideas and people to contact, I found that the most prevalent issue I heard about was none other than the athletic facilities on campus. In conversations with my female peers, we would often bond over the discomfort we felt using these facilities. Soon I was connected with Dr. Liz Wilkinson, English faculty whose research focuses on women in sports, to gain a better understanding of the root of this problem.

Dr. Wilkinson and I discussed at great length the fear many women face using campus facilities, as well as gyms abroad. We shared our own experiences, and stories we had heard from others, and concluded that the opportunity to exercise for well-being should not be limited to men. For my project, we hosted a Fitness for All group discussion where women shared challenging experiences they had had using workout facilities, and together we brainstormed a list of ways the AARC could be reclaimed as a place where all people feel comfortable exercising.

I was overwhelmed with trying to balance too many aspects of this issue, as it ranges far from unfamiliarity in workout spaces, fear of harassment, body image issues fueled by social media, etc. With Dr. Wilkinson's guidance, we embraced the simplicity of a conversation among peers, and generated ideas that we hope to begin working on with the start of a new school year.

# THE PLEASURE AND POWER OF CRITICAL ECOFEMINISM AT THE NWSA

**Dr. Liz Wilkinson**

Associate Professor of English/Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



On November 13, 2022, six of us from the University of St. Thomas graduate English program presented a roundtable discussion on Critical Ecofeminism at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, held conveniently in downtown Minneapolis. Megan McCready, Shannon Hill, Katelyn Regenscheid, Caleb Brooks, and Stacy Hannigan were the five scholars who teamed up with me to propose this discussion of a mix of creative and analytical perspectives to the NWSA. Our work included traditional scholarly essays along with a play, an autoethnography, and a Declaration of Interdependence. Previous to the conference, we had gathered via Zoom and in-person to weave together into a cohesive whole excerpts of papers written for GENG 577, in Fall 2021. To our great pleasure (and adding a bit more anxiety) our audience for the presentation included Dr. Greta Gaard, the author of *Critical Ecofeminism*, the theoretical text that had inspired our work. Equally exciting and daunting, from that presentation we have been asked to write a pedagogical article for the journal *Gender and Education*, which is in process. Additionally, the Canadian publisher Women's Press has asked us to submit a book proposal. While we are a little bit in awe of all that needs to be done to get the article, book proposal, and perhaps even a published manuscript over the finish line, we're also energized by the interdependent, collective power that is critical ecofeminism, and we are energized by the powerful team we have become.

# VOLUNTEERING AT THE NWSA

**Maddie Schutte**

Class of 2025

The volunteer job of giving out directions doesn't feel important until Angela Davis is asking you where to go. Thanks to our amazing WGSS director Paola Ehrmantraut, myself and several other students from our Foundations in Women's Studies course were able to attend the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference that was held in Minneapolis. As volunteers, our fees were waived and we were able to attend for free. This experience provided us with amazing stories to recount, like standing a few feet away from Anita Hill as she signed copies of her book, or giving Angela Davis those directions to her conference room.



Although we weren't able to attend much more than the Keynote Speakers as volunteers, being surrounded by WGSS academics and those passionate about the field validated me in my studies. I felt so much positivity and community from those attending the event, seeing them be able to make careers out of this area of study, and seeing how many connections and relationships are formed through the community at the conference.

Especially given the current political climate regarding Women's Rights, this experience left me with an incredibly hopeful feeling. I'm so thankful to Dr. Ehrmantraut and the WGSS department for providing us with the opportunity to attend the NWSA conference and have the opportunity to meet so many incredible people in this community.





**Aura Wharton-Beck, Ed.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Director of Administrative Licenses  
Department of Educational Leadership

In 2017, I was awarded the SAPIENTIA AWARD from the Luann Dummer Center for Women. This award recognized my doctoral research on African American Government Girls.

My quest to become a feminist researcher and writer was an evolutionary process. The journey enabled me to transition from being a scholar, researcher, writer, and an emerging documentary film producer. The *Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research* published the first peer-reviewed article on the Government Girls. In fall of 2022, *Feminist Review* published another manuscript on Government Girls which included photographs and archival documents from the National Archives for Black Women's History and the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, D.C. This publication allowed me to spread my creative wings by including an introductory poem about the Government Girls.

# PASSING THE TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMINIST SCHOLARS

Along the way, I developed significant relationships with iDreamTV and the fiscal sponsorship of Women In Film and Video (WIFV). iDream TV filmed and co-produced the movie trailer for my documentary film. This movie trailer paved the way for me to apply for a fiscal sponsorship through WIFV. In 2021, WIFV selected my documentary film project as one of their projects. These female-led organizations aim to support the creative endeavors of women.

The creation of a website served as a catalyst for launching the production of the documentary film. I intentionally developed a website, [IndelibleNarratives.com](https://IndelibleNarratives.com), with the sole purpose of capturing additional stories of African American Government Girls. I intend to expand the scope of the website to include the stories of women who share similar stories of resilience and adaptability in new cultures. This idea of collecting absent narratives was a direct result of teaching graduate students in the School of Education. Storytelling continues to be a central focus of my interest.

Teaching a graduate course in Feminist Perspectives and Qualitative Research in the School of Education dramatically changed my approach to teaching on the subject of feminism. As students began to

curate stories of their mothers and female relatives, an interesting pattern emerged. Finding hope in once deferred or abandoned dreams are some of the stories that students shared with me. Using Bell's (2022) model for categorizing stories about race, students learned to categorize their family stories into the following themes: Stock Stories, Concealed Stories! Resistance Stories and Transforming Stories. Exceptional stories ranged from Indigenous women whose mothers and grandmother attended boarding schools, African women living in the Diaspora, migrant workers from the Global South, Hmong women who settled in the Twin Cities from Laos, and European women whose grandmother's arrival are recorded in the archives of Ellis Island.

I believe that every woman must be given the opportunity to identify critical events in her/their lives which serve as transformational moments. The evolution of your story begins now. **I urge you to take the opportunity to expand your imagination and research agenda by applying for the Luann Dummer Center for Women research grant. It will transform the trajectory of your herstory.**

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## **LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!**

**Join us October 2023 as we celebrate  
the legacy of Dr. Luann Dummer!**

### **30th Anniversary Exhibition**

**October 17th** (1:30 - 3:30pm), **October 18th** (10:30-12:30 pm), and **October 19th** (11:45 am -1:15 pm): Learn about the rich history of the LDCW with a guided tour of the Women's Center space, along with a visual art and oral history archive!

### **LDCW's 30th Anniversary Celebration!**

**October 25th** 5 - 7 pm: Join us for appetizers in the Atrium of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center followed by a presentation with former LDCW director Debra Petersen (Communication Studies) and Nancy Zingale, former assistant to the president, ex-officio of the LDCW Advisory Board, and friend of Luann.



# 2022-2023 LDCW GRANTS

## PROGRESS REPORTS

### Navigating the Leadership Labyrinth: Women Leaders in Corporate America



#### **Maria Holm**

Doctoral Student, Educational  
Leadership and Learning  
2022 Graduate Fellowship Recipient

In the summer of 2022, I had the great privilege of accepting the Luann Dummer Center for Women Graduate Fellowship! The fellowship allowed me to finalize my research study and do the analysis needed to write my dissertation. Thank you to the Committee for this honor and to my Chair, Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck for all the support!

After over 20 years with the same company, I chose to move on from the organization—I was at a loss

for how to interview or negotiate compensation. I found a mentor, a woman leader at the organization I was leaving, who could help me in my pursuit. I asked her for advice on how to handle the situation; surprisingly, she discouraged me from negotiating pay. She told me if I wanted the job, to take the offer that was made.

I really wanted the job, so I took what they offered me. I later learned the pay they offered was lower than what all my peers made. It was this experience that led me to the topic for my Doctoral dissertation. “Women In Professional Roles: Does Lack of Negotiation Lead To Less Pay?”

This was not the first time I experienced inequity; but it was a turning point for me. It changed how I handled myself in future negotiations for jobs. My study focused on 15 women in Corporate America in their mid to late careers. A phenomenological study, I asked women to share their experiences related to

interviewing, negotiation, career, and job experience.

The results from the study were eye opening and validating. From this, four themes emerged. The first theme was commonalities the women shared: ambition, motivation, high performing, and career plans. These common threads are why they each landed opportunities to negotiate for jobs they wanted. It was also surprising, because the second theme was that these women ALL passed on negotiation at least once in their careers. Each woman chose not to negotiate; this decision driven by lack of confidence, permission and opportunity.

Transparency was another theme linked to pay practices or pay ranges, which were inconsistently shared by the companies these women worked for or pursued. The lack of transparency by the organizations led to lack of confidence and self-advocacy. Stych (2019) stated that women were twice as likely as men to report being totally uncomfortable negotiating.

Finally, 11 of the women experienced some form of disparaging treatment in their career. While not entirely new news, the surprise is

that it still happens. The treatment each woman described was related to pay, job change, motherhood, and personality. This finding is important to the study because it showcases that stereotypes and bias are still at play, which is why women hold back instead of advocating for themselves.

The bright side to these learnings is that we know that as women, we can chart our own path. Ten of the women in the study found mentors or hired someone to prep them for interviews and helped them negotiate; I also did for my last job.

## Check out the LDCW's grant opportunities!

Did you know the LDCW awards up to \$4,000 in fellowships for undergraduate and graduate research, as well as offering financial support for staff and faculty projects?

Visit our [website](#) for application details!

# 2022-2023 LDCW FELLOWSHIPS

## Female Maturation & Sexuality Through the Lens of Victorian Vampire Fiction



**Jessica Trombley**  
English Major, Creative  
Writing, Theology Minor  
Class of 2023  
2022 Undergraduate  
Fellowship Recipient

In the summer of 2022, I was granted the Luann Dummer Center for Women Undergraduate Fellowship. Over the span of several months I was privileged to work alongside Dr. Alexis Easley as she helped me narrow my ideas, submit my abstract to conferences, and read many works surrounding the feminist topic of womanhood that I wanted to explore. My final topic came along during the many meetings and discussions that Dr. Easley and I had while reading a collection of gothic vampire stories. As I read, I created a blog ([jessicatrom.wixsite.com](http://jessicatrom.wixsite.com)) that helped me keep track of important ideas and reflections in order to build up my thesis and evidence. My final paper focuses mainly on *Carmilla* by Sheridan Le Fanu and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, as well as the YouTube web series adaptation of *Carmilla* (2014 to 2016).

As I contemplated these works, I dissected them through both a feminist and historical lens to better understand how they are metaphors for the oppression and struggle of female maturation and sexuality. I wrote two final papers, one including a discussion of the *Carmilla* web series, and another that was presented at the Midwestern Modern Language Association's conference in November 2022. I was able to stay at the Minneapolis conference center to present my research on a panel focused on Decentered Perspectives. This fellowship was so unique, and I most definitely feel I was able to gain experience while pursuing a genuine interest, which I will be grateful for as I continue my work as a scholar and a feminist.



Depiction of Carmilla and Laura  
by "IrenHorrors" from DeviantArt



# YARN TAMERS

## TUESDAYS | NOON - 1 PM

**Everyone is welcome!**

Yarn Tamers is an open group and a wonderful opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects and meeting new friends!

Not yet a knitter? Come learn from other crafters!

If you would like to receive weekly reminders and updates for Yarn Tamers, email Christine, [christine.balsley@stthomas.edu](mailto:christine.balsley@stthomas.edu), and she'll add you to the list!



Sometimes our projects match our outfits...



...and sometimes they don't.

# THE LDCW ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 DIRECTOR: DR. SHAHERZAD AHMADI



The Luann Dummer Center for Women (LDCW) is excited to announce its appointment of Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi to serve as director of the center for the 2023-24 academic year. Ahmadi is an associate professor of history at St. Thomas; her research and teaching focus is on the Islamic world, particularly the Middle East and North Africa. She has been published in the leading journals of her field, including the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and, most recently, *Iranian Studies*. Her research interests include the history of immigration, childhood, and medicine. Her book, *Bordering on War: A Transnational Social and Political History of Khuzistan*, will be published by the University of Texas Press in 2024.

As a member of the Luann Dummer Center for Women's advisory board, Ahmadi has been impressed by the tremendous investment faculty, staff, students and community leaders have made in the center. She aims to continue the center's rich legacy of building community across the university, providing women-centered programming and expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary learning during her one-year tenure as director.

Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut, LDCW board member and St. Thomas faculty, said, "This is an exciting time for the center with new ideas emerging for strengthening its role and reach. Shaherzad is bringing enthusiasm and energy to the center. On behalf of the board, I warmly welcome her to this role and look forward to her leadership."

"Shaherzad has begun her tenure with wonderful energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead, working tirelessly this summer to build relationships across campus and prepare for the many events we're implementing this academic year," said LDCW Program Manager Christine Balsley.

# FALL 2023 EVENTS

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103)*

**Yarn Tamers: Every Tuesday from 12-1 pm**

**September 12th** Making Waves: "Taste the World," Noon- 1:15 pm

**September 21st** Hispanic Heritage Month Movie Night: *Like Water for Chocolate*, 6 - 8 pm, collaboration with LACS, WGSS, MCL, and ENG

**September 28** September Book Circle, *Like Water for Chocolate*, Noon - 1pm, collaboration with LACS, WGSS, MCL, and ENG

**October 10th** Book Circle: *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille Dungy, Noon - 1 pm

**30th Anniversary Exhibition** October 17th (1:30 - 3:30pm), October 18th (10:30-12:30 pm), and October 19th (11:45 am -1:15 pm); Guided tour of space with visual art and oral history archive

**October 25th LDCW's 30th Anniversary Celebration!** 5 - 7 pm  
O'Shaughnessy Educational Center, panelists Debra Petersen & Nancy Zingale

**November 14th:** Making Waves with Susan Anderson-Benson, "Weight to Lift the Weight," Noon-1pm

**November 30th:** Book Circle: Readings related to research by 2023-24 LDCW grant recipient Sophia Becker and advisor Dr. Roxanne Prichard



**2024 WOMEN'S HISTORY  
MONTH SPEAKER:**

**ALISON BECHDEL!**

**MARCH 4, 2024  
OEC AUDITORIUM**



## **Luann Dummer Center for Women**

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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 USA

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Christine Balsley  
Editor | Designer, Many Voices Magazine  
Program Manager, Luann Dummer Center for Women

### **2022-2023 STUDENT WORKER TEAM**

Daniela Farfan Arevalo  
Brianna Hansch  
Narges Mohammadimajed  
Chloe Rohl  
Maddie Schutte

### **2022-2023 ADVISORY BOARD**

Shaherzad Ahmadi  
Maria Helena Buitrago-Cohoon  
Paola Ehrmantraut  
Anne Osler  
Liz Wilkinson

### **WELCOME!**

2023-2024 Director: Dr. Shaherzad Ahmadi

2023 Summer/Fall additions to the LDCW Advisory Board:

Sogol Bahremand  
GiGi Giordano  
Ann Kenne  
Calli Mellin  
Kathy Vasquez

For more information on LDCW programs and opportunities, join our mailing list at [www.stthomas.edu/lcdw](http://www.stthomas.edu/lcdw)