



LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN

giving tribute to the Center's first director, the late Dr. Meg Wilkes Karraker. That evening, we were reminded of momentum generated by the next generation of feminists as the LDCW's student-led group FemCom once again packed the auditorium—this time with nearly all students—to revive Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," creating another **collection of people coming together to support and drive ideals forward.**

Through the next few pages, you'll read of not only the motion exhibited through the past few months, but of momentum promised in the future—from springtime Feminist Fridays tackling key issues of our time to the shift in leadership of the Center. As always, we invite your voice to join the many voices outlined here as we continue moving through our academic year at the LDCW.

The Luann Dummer Center for Women's theme for 2018-2019 is **"Women in Motion."** We've been working hard to stay true to that theme!

This past January, we arranged a bus to transport St. Thomas community members to the **2019 Women's March MN.** It was one of the coldest days of a bitter cold winter. Bolstered by our freshly made signs, warm drinks, hand warmers, and that feeling of solidarity that comes with negative temperatures and a cause under threat, we boarded the bus and marched to the Capitol.

The steadfastness and coherency exhibited by that day remained evident through our continuing efforts to support and uphold gender equity on campus this semester. In March, polar explorer, environmentalist, and educator **Ann Bancroft** spoke to a full auditorium about not only her adventures to both Poles and the alarming environmental changes taking place—from "rotten" ice to polar bears' increasing desperation—but the necessity of having people in your corner to back you up through your challenges.

International Women's Day brought a time to celebrate the LDCW's 25th Anniversary, where we launched the booklet **"Wisdom's Home"** and hosted two important events, one featuring the LDCW art collection and another



2019 Women's History Month Speaker Ann Bancroft discusses the dangers of melting ice caps, as illustrated by her leaping over a river of melted snow.

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A Heart Full of Thanks



Dr. Young-ok An, LDCW;
English and Women's
Studies

How time flies! As I complete my term as director by the end of the academic year, I feel deeply grateful for the tremendous opportunity I've been given. My tenure is bookended by the LDCW's big milestones: as I assumed directorship in the 2012-13 year, I became involved in the Center's 20th anniversary planning, and as I wrap up my work, I have overseen our 25th anniversary celebrations.

Our 25th anniversary celebration came on the heels of a very successful March Women's History lecture by Ann Bancroft. Building on our lead-in programs such as book circle discussions and a photo contest on the theme of "Women Moving through Society" (co-sponsored with create[space]), the culminating lecture was captivating and inspirational. Ann Bancroft was all the more impressive because of her unassuming and engaging personality. Her courage, thoroughness, and generosity moved the evening audience deeply, as demonstrated by the standing ovation at the end of her lecture.

While the Women's History month lecture was our signature event, I'd like to emphasize the broad range of the LDCW's regular and co-sponsored programs and initiatives, to tackle both long-term and emerging issues regarding gender-equity, diversity, and social justice. **Over the years, I saw that different events attracted different groups of the LDCW constituents, so we accordingly prepared a range of programs to address the concerns and passions of different constituents.** I feel particularly rewarded when I reflect how we have been multi-faceted in addressing the range of issues in an effective way while having a coherent theme

for each year. Being both consistent and nimble, the Center has served a truly broad array of constituents in meaningful ways.

As political discourse at the national level is polarized and often hostile to women and minority groups, **we have been called to engage with activism while at the same time to do intellectual work.** I think it's really important that the LDCW participated once again in the Women's March at the Capitol in January, a follow-up to the bigger-scale Women's March of 2017. A busload of participants affirmed the power behind working together to move women's rights and opportunities forward. The smaller scale belied the energy and devotion of the participants, carrying signs that demonstrated concern about feminist issues, social justice, anti-racism and diversity, emigrant and refugee rights, environmentalism, and LGBTQ+ rights. One of our participants brought a "Love Your Neighbors" sign; I took that to mean both locally and at the national borders, amid the heightened talk about building a border wall.



Speakers

2013: Dr. Sara Paretsky
2014: Dr. Esfandiari
2015: Winona LaDuke
2016: Dr. Roxane Gay
2017: Nina Totenberg
2018: Lynsey Addario
2019: Anne Bancroft

Themes

2013-14: "International Feminism and Diverse Women's Life Stories"
2014-15: "Women and Environmental Sustainability"
2015-16: "Women Change-Makers"
2016-17: "Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling"
2017-18: "Women and Economic Justice"
2018-19: "Women in Motion"

I'd like to express my gratitude to the terrific partners we collaborated with over the years, especially Women's Studies, University Advocates for Women and Equity, the Student Diversity and Inclusion Services, LGBTQ+Allies (disbanded last year, but a group that contributed mightily to the campus climate), and the Women Faculty Leadership Council. Also, it's been so wonderful to oversee the student group of FemCom. This spring, on top of their regular activities, they put together a fantastic performance of "The Vagina Monologues." Also, the QSA (Queer-Straight Alliance) and Catholic Women's Leadership groups have been a steady presence in the Center.

I'm grateful for the support of the capable, generous, and committed members of the Center's Advisory Board. Their devotion to the Center's mission, hard work, and fellowship have been crucial for the successful execution of both large and small programs. I can't thank Christine Balsley enough for her effective and graceful presence for the last several years. I'll miss our daily chat and decompression sessions after big events. Together, we also appreciate our energetic and vibrant student workers; each of them over the years brought energy and spirit to our beloved Center.

While I'm looking forward to taking my twice-delayed sabbatical (in that sense, our theme this year, "Women in Action," is fitting), I feel the pang of leaving my haunt, my home at OEC for the last seven years. I'm consoled, however, to know that the Center will be in excellent hands. My successor, Emily James, will be taking the helm with what will be capable and kind leadership.

On the door of my office at the Center hangs a sign kind-hearted Emily Kindelspire hung a while ago: **"Empowered women empower women."** The motto captures the spirit of the place. With Luann's bequest that makes the LDCW's platform and resources independent and stable, we build and sustain our programs, and nurture students to become leaders on their own. What a powerful and living legacy!



LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

YOUR STORY WITHIN THE STORY

February 15



"Your story is being created within the ever-unfolding story of our world. In this hour, you will mark your place within the folds and begin to tell."

Sherrie Fernandez-Williams

Ms. Fernandez-Williams returned with Part Two of the "Tell Your Story" project started this past October. This writing workshop delved into developing one's personal narrative by navigating one's story within one's place in the world.

Paired with the LDCW's annual Minneapolis Chocolate Reception, Sherrie brought her talents for mining stories to the Minneapolis campus.

This time, Sherrie pushed participants deeper into recognizing and claiming what she called the "heat" of our stories by exploring the origin--the time, place, context--of moments that developed into driving passions. At one point, Sherrie noted, **"If we are connected to our story and we have that with us, we belong wherever we are."**

As one student observed, "Overall, I found this event to be highly insightful and personal, which both surprised and challenged me. Its interactive workshop format helped me consider my own individuality in a lens that made my experiences vivid with meaning I hadn't recognized before. It gave me a concrete start to drawing my story into myself and creating a fuller understanding of my unique identity."

As we continue our "Tell Your Story" project, we hope you will participate in finding your personal narrative and welcome you to explore your story with us.



Participants share their stories at the Minneapolis Chocolate Reception and Feminist Friday with local author Sherrie Fernandez-Williams.

LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

MAKING AND UNMAKING

MASCULINITIES

April 12



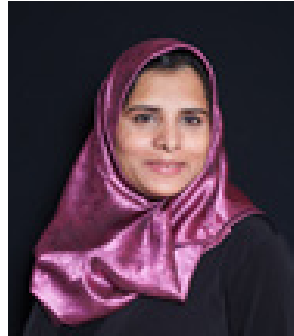
Vern Klobassa and Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut

By examining foundational scholarship on masculinities, the panel will engage with a feminist perspective to un-make cultural stereotypes and to rebuild much more complex notions of masculinity.

Both panelists will bring a different lens of expertise: Vern Klobassa from his work with Student Affairs and various student groups; and Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut through non-American, especially Latin American, studies.

MUSLIM WOMEN'S VOICES

MAY 3



Dr. Sadaf Sheir and Tamara Gray

This presentation aims to question the frequent misrepresentation in Western Media of Muslim women as being oppressed. The presentation attempts to explain cultural characteristics that have been distorted by Western Media to make them look like oppression, and to introduce into the discussion the voices of brave, inspiring, passionate and hardworking Muslim women who have used their faith as a source of strength.



December 2018: Yarn Tamers hold up knit donations for Alexandra House.

LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR:



DR. EMILY JAMES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Emily James, associate professor of English at St. Thomas has been appointed to serve as Director of the Luann Dummer Center for Women (LDCW), to begin July 1, 2019. She succeeds Dr. Young-ok An, also associate professor of English, who is completing her seventh year as LDCW director.

James, who notes that the “Dummer Center has been crucial to my sense of belonging and community” at St. Thomas, has been here since 2012. Her scholarship focuses mainly on women writers and artists such as Virginia Woolf and Anna Atkins, and she serves as a research mentor to many students who focus on topics related to women and gender. James’s mentoring work was recognized in a 2014 TommieMedia article celebrating “Influential Women at St. Thomas.”

As LDCW director, James hopes to bring influential women thinkers and writers to campus, noting the important impact on students of the opportunity to meet and interact with women leaders. She is also excited about promoting interdisciplinary research and finding ways to support projects about women and gender that reach across departments.

Dr. Ann Johnson, who led the search committee for the new director, notes that “Dr. James brings a

wealth of talent, skill and administrative experience to the role. The advisory board was impressed with her broad scholarship and mentoring accomplishments as well as her articulate expression of the Center’s mission and how it might be carried out. We have always had strong and effective women leaders at the Center, and I know Emily will continue that tradition.”

Dr. An, current director of the LDCW, states that her experience as the fifth director of the LDCW has been “an incredible opportunity and honor.” She notes that “The Center, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, is hailed as a hub for feminist discourse and activism for the entire St. Thomas community -- through its sponsorship of countless events and programs, and through its partnerships with many branches across the campus. As the campus climate changes, the Center has always provided support and leadership, particularly in affirming the rights and voices of marginalized groups.”

An says that “I’m looking forward to Dr. James, an esteemed colleague in the English department, taking the helm as the new director. As the new chapter begins, the Center will continue to flourish, with its strong foundation laid out by the late Dr. Luann Dummer.”

Dr. An will be embarking on a much-deserved sabbatical leave during the 2019-2020 academic year. Ann Johnson notes, “the Center has flourished under Young’s leadership. We are all extremely grateful for her dedicated and creative work.”

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



Dr. Susan Myers

Chair of Women's Studies,
Theology Department

For over twenty-five years, the Women's Studies program at the University of St. Thomas has been part of a consortium with three other institutions in the area: Augsburg University, Hamline University, and St. Catherine University. Together we have shared activities and have brought speakers to the area; have sponsored students to attend the annual National Women's Studies Association Annual meeting; and, most of all, have shared academic courses and requirements. Our students have enjoyed the opportunity to take over eighty distinct courses in the consortium, free from any constraints that usually apply to UST students studying at other institutions. Indeed, we at UST have relied heavily on core courses in Women's Studies that have regularly been taught at other schools in order to allow our majors to complete their degrees.

There have been many challenges at UST and at our neighboring institutions in recent years, but the consortium lives on! We are now officially called the **Twin Cities Women's and Gender Studies Collaborative**, a group of four institutions committed to the academic pursuit of matters related to women, gender, and sexuality. We continue to work together in many areas, most notably by sponsoring an annual student conference each year.

This year, the Student Conference of the Twin Cities Women's and Gender Studies Collaborative was held on International Women's Day, Friday, March 8, at St. Catherine University. Students from any of the four institutions, including St. Thomas, were able to share research completed in the areas of gender or sexuality. This conference was a great way for students to get experience presenting their work and learning from others, all in a supportive atmosphere.

This year, participants in the student conference had the opportunity to attend, that evening, St. Kate's annual Kelly Distinguishing Visiting Scholar Lecture. This year's lecture, entitled "I Have Seen the Good Worlds," featured Toshi Reagon, a multi-talented artist and lecturer.

This academic year has also seen an expansion of our program into new areas. We welcome the inclusion of courses in the School of Social Work (as well as established courses in the Opus College of Business and, especially, in a variety of departments in the College of Arts and Sciences). There have been several new courses

developed in the past year including Latina Women Writers (English); Women and Nature: A Relationship to Recast (an ecofeminism course taught in the English language but offered in the Italian area of Modern and Classical Languages); and Masculinities (Women's Studies). Although there was not always sufficient student interest for these courses to run, we hope that they will be offered again in the near future. They all promise to be fascinating explorations of feminist topics.

This is my last semester as the director of the Women's Studies program, so I conclude this column by saying farewell. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with our faculty and students, and hope that the Women's Studies program will continue to thrive long into the future until that bright moment when the achievements and goals of women, as well as of gender and sexual minorities, will be so commonly acknowledged that we won't need to have a distinct program of study. That moment is currently so far out on the horizon that I can't quite see it clearly!

Please join me in a commitment to creating a world in which all voices are heard and the dignity of every individual is recognized—

something that we can all work toward both individually and collectively, and in whatever role we find ourselves.

REPORT ON THE UAWWE

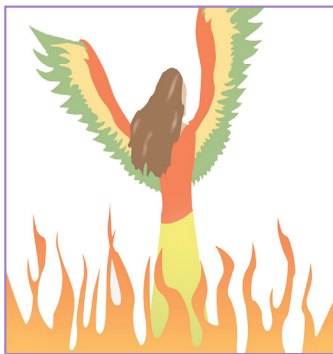
(University Advocates for Women and Equity)



Dr. Jessica Hodge

Chair, UAWWE Coordinating Council
Associate Professor, Department
of Sociology & Criminal Justice
Faculty Director, Center for the
Common Good

The UAWWE has gone through some exciting changes! Due to an overwhelming number of highly qualified applicants for the Coordinating Council last fall, the UAWWE decided to welcome all of these women to the Coordinating Council in order to tap into their knowledge, energy and passion for tackling issues related to the UAWWE mission. **We have increased the number from 12 to 20 council members**, and now have a diverse council with student, staff and faculty representatives that cut across different units, departments, and colleges.



We are excited to announce our new Coordinating Council:

- Dr. Sarah Anderson, Mathematics
- Nichole Boehmke, Director of Facilities Services, Facilities Management
- Karin Brown, Instructional Designer, STELAR
- Shamika Brown (Treasurer), Administrative Assistant, College of Arts & Sciences
- Sadie Buckel, Undergraduate Student Representative
- Dr. Vanessa Cornett-Murtada, Music
- Monique Dargis, Financial Aid Counselor, Office of Financial Aid
- Hannah Dasyam, Undergraduate Student Representative, Civil Engineering
- Dr. Jessica Hodge (Chair), Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Mia Jackman, Student Diversity and Inclusion Services, Graduate Assistant
- Grace Kubista, Undergraduate Student Representative, Engineering
- Dr. Patricia Maddox, Sociology & Criminal Justice
- Dr. Jeni McDermott, Geology Department; Civil Engineering Department; Environmental Science Program
- Ea McMillan Porter, Asst. Director of Community Engagement, School of Education
- Sadie Pedersen, Undergraduate Student Representative, Leadership and Management
- Dr. Jessica Siegel, Psychology
- Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck, Educational Leadership
- Julia Wickham, Undergraduate Student Representative, Political Science & History
- Dr. Jayme Yahr, Art History
- Jena Zangs, Associate Director of Constituent Intelligence, UDAR
- Dr. Young-ok An (Ex-Officio), Director of Luann Dummer Center for Women

We are currently working on several initiatives that address issues related to the UAWWE mission and will provide more information about these initiatives soon. Look for updates on the UAWWE website!

This semester we will continue the tradition of holding our **Annual Spring Reception**; the reception is open to the entire UST community and refreshments are provided. The reception takes place on Tuesday **April, 16th from 4-6 pm in McNeely Hall, Room 100** and is an opportunity for us to celebrate the many accomplishments across campus related to the mission of the UAWWE and to honor the recipients of our signature awards:

Good Sister Award

Pauline Lambert Advocacy Award

Sister Pat Kowalski Women's Leadership Award

The Sapientia Award

For more information about these awards, please visit our website: www.stthomas.edu/uawe/.

For any questions about the UAWWE Coordinating Council, please feel free to contact the UAWWE chair, Jessica Hodge at jhodge@stthomas.edu.

GREETINGS FROM QSA!

Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) is thankful to have wrapped up another busy semester!

In the Fall, we were happy to have many new first-years and upperclass-students to our club.

Our numbers continue to grow!

In October, we held our annual Pride Week Celebration wherein we partnered with great campus organizations like Student Diversity and Inclusion Services, Diversity Activities Board, and the Luann Dummer Center for Women. From October 8-12, we held awesome events, both educational and social, to promote awareness about the LGBTQ+ community on campus and the challenges and triumphs we experience as queer students. A couple of our favorites were the screening and discussion of the film "Love, Simon" for which we were ecstatic to see a huge turnout, our annual Pride Flag Making event in the create[space] where we invited queer students and allies to learn about the history and significance of the various Pride Flags and the opportunity to make a flag representing their identity, and the Pride Dance where we celebrated the presence of the queer community at St. Thomas with music, a photo booth, and dancing.

We are eternally grateful to the students and staff at SDIS, DAB, and the LDCW for their continued support in QSA's efforts on campus. In December, we held our **annual QSA Q&A**, an event at which audience members can submit questions anonymously via PollEverywhere to a panel of queer-identifying students, staff, and faculty. We had a great turnout and had **a very meaningful and productive discussion, dispelling myths, stereotypes, and answering questions about the LGBTQ+ community at St. Thomas.**

We are so thankful to all those who attend our events and continue to support QSA and the Queer community on campus. If you would like to join us, **we meet every Thursday at 5:30pm in OEC 206.**

2019 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Accompanying last month's Women History Month Lecture, the LDCW and create[space] sponsored a photo contest on the theme "Women Moving Through Society."

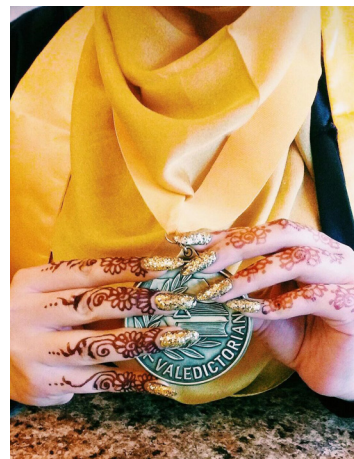
Out of many talented participants, these were the winners:



1st Place:
"Activist, Age 6"
by Anna Starks



2nd Place:
"Something to Reach For"
by Lisa Abendroth



Winner of Popular Vote:
"Perseverance"
by Erum Osman

REMEMBERING

MEG WILKES KARRAKER

Dr. Meg Wilkes Karraker served as the first director of the Luann Dummer Center for Women (1993-1996). She passed away this past fall. We offer this tribute to her hardwork, boundless energy, and generous spirit. The Center wouldn't be the same without her as its founding Director.



Meg was a terrific first director of the LDCW. She had boundless energy, a wealth of ideas and a welcoming and engaging personality. She put the Center on the St. Thomas map!
~Nancy Zingale

Everyone who spoke at those early Feminist Fridays received as thanks an LDCW mug with a small bouquet of flowers. To me, that gesture captures the combination of warmth, hospitality and thoughtfulness that Meg brought to all her work.

~Brenda Powell

She was gracious and direct, which made her the best kind of colleague. Meg liked to say that there was always more than one way to do something, and that if you get a bunch of smart people together they can probably work together to figure it out.
~Angela High-Pippert



She saw the good in everyone and spent her energies in building up the common good long before it became the motto at St. Thomas. And how she loved her family! Mark was her strength and her confidante, and the girls, Amelia and Miriam, were her pride and joy.

~Sister Katarina Schuth



I don't know how she did it but Meg is a shining model for balancing work and life. And I will always recall her laugh and her ability to treat you like a confidante when you were in a conversation with her. She was inspiring and fun and we all miss her very much.

~Ann Johnson

One of my favorite memories of Meg is during a J-term in Rome. Being Meg, she arranged for all the UST faculty in Rome to meet for dinner and dubbed it 'Parent's Night Out'. We had so much fun and Meg was the one to bring us together. I miss her laughter, her generous spirit, her wisdom, and her warmth.

~Sherry Jordon

The first word that comes to mind with Meg is gracious - it wasn't just that Southern charm, it's that she was a warm and welcoming host, whether that was in her office or in her home.

~Liz Dussol

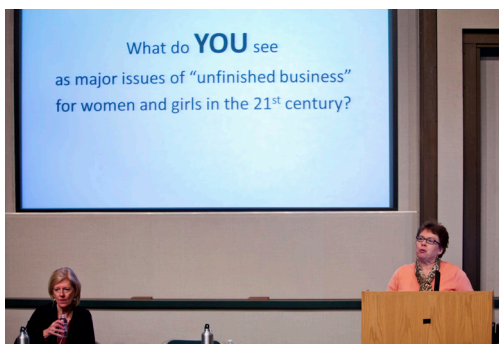
Meg kindly "subbed" for the scheduled instructor for our Summer 2016 course, "How the 'Long' 1960s Changed Us." I deeply appreciated her organization and graciousness - and I appreciated this all the more so, since the Salim Center and my life were in significant times of transition. Our director was retiring, I was teaching an additional course due to the sudden death of an instructor, and my husband was in the final months of his life. It was a tough time for me personally and professionally, and I will always remember how kind and "together" Meg was, which made at least part of my life easier that summer.

~Susan Anderson-Benson

I depended on her insights on so many occasions, and she always came through with perceptive thoughts and good advice. In everything, Meg's advice always came down to:

What is ultimately best for our students?

~Susan Myers



Meg was always true to herself. She was firm in her convictions. She always stood up for those convictions and for other women, especially her students.

~Susan Alexander

Meg had the infectious spirit of a life-long learner and was a true mentor of junior colleagues.

~Danila Cannamela

I enjoyed attending church service with Meg in Italy. I know Meg is still singing her favorite hymns.

~Tanya Gladney



When Meg spoke at the Dowling hall mother/daughter brunch, she shared warm stories about relationships between mothers and daughter and talked about being a working mom. Both the mothers and daughters were inspired by her, so much so they formed a line to talk to her afterwards.

~Karen Lange

As a teacher, scholar and mentor, Meg was devoted to enhancing our understanding of women's roles in society and to using her knowledge to advocate for the empowerment of women in a wide range of contexts including families, workplaces, and college campuses.

~Peter Parilla

Meg lit up a room with her laughter and enthusiasm and I always admired her ability to get to the heart of a matter, especially on controversial issues.

~Debra Petersen



Meg's shepherding and contribution to the LDCW continued throughout my tenure: she often held class in the LDCW, included it in her famous "scavenger hunt" event for the graduating seniors, and responded to my every question with tremendous wisdom and care. We are all indebted to Meg's exceptional energy, dedication, and leadership.

~ Young-ok An

2019 WOMEN'S MARCH MN

On January 19th, the LDCW arranged a bus to transport St. Thomas community members to the 2019 Women's March MN at the State Capitol. Here are some stories from the day:



Dr. Alexis Easley
English Department

My sign read:

"To all the little girls who are watching, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful."

It was a line from Hillary Clinton's concession speech after the 2016 election. I remember how impressed I was by her words, and today they continue to resonate.

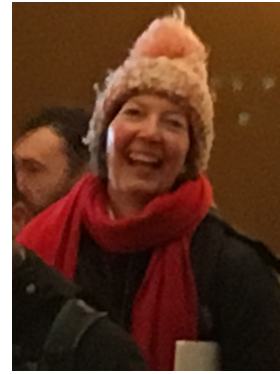
I am hoping our 2019 march will inspire the next generation to follow in our footsteps--to demand social change by embracing diversity and speaking out against social injustice.



Mary Knatterud

I literally fell into a hole at the Women's March, just after hoofing it over the I-94 Marion Street bridge with hundreds of fellow sign-carrying feminists. I fell through a utility hole's cracked cover, whose shards then slammed onto the top of my tennie. My shocked husband lifted me out, and I stayed on my now-swelling left foot and bleeding right leg for another 4 heady hours (until finally surrendering to the need for Urgent Care, including x-rays).

I stayed on my unbalanced feet in the cold for hours because of all of the holes that have tripped me up, that have twisted my tendons, that have gashed me and countless others—merely on account of our gender. Such holes, to name a representative few, include the hole ripped in my 4-year-old heart when my beloved mom exclaimed to neighbors, as my older sister and I welcomed our brand-new baby brother, "Thank God THIS baby was finally a BOY"; the hole ripped in my bridal veil when my supposed loved ones expressed their dismay and even outright hostility as I kept my "maiden" name; and the hole continuously ripping in the fabric of our current democracy. Our entire planet is in need of Urgent Care.



Dr. Erika Scheurer
English Department

The poet Mary Oliver had just died a few days before, so for this year's march I made a sign with her picture and a quote from her poem "Sometimes":

**Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.**

While in the poem, Mary Oliver called this "Instructions for living a life," I think they also are great instructions for activism.

We need to continue to pay close attention to what is going on politically and culturally.

We need to remain open to astonishment and not become jaded or complacent--astonishment at both the terrible things that go on as well as at inspiring acts of humanity and goodness.

And finally, we need to tell about it: keep talking, keep writing.

2019 WOMEN'S MARCH MN



Kendra Tillberry

Graduate FemCom Facilitator
Graduate Creative Writing &
Publishing

I marched for all the women in my family -- my mom, aunts, grandmas, and cousins. We had so much excitement in our hearts in November 2016 as we supported Hillary Clinton in breaking that big glass ceiling. Her potential presidency signaled that we may one day find more respect in our roles as women, mothers, scholars, teachers and professionals. Losing the election felt like a personal loss for me because the other candidate did not and does not hold the qualifications or the moral and ethical capacity to uphold our democratic institutions that I believe the president of our country should hold. In marching for my family, I also marched alongside all other oppressed communities who have been under attack in recent years. **Our marching together is a symbol of hope for me in how far we can go when we go together.** The most memorable part for me was being able to connect with other amazingly talented and brilliant people from across

campus and get to know them. For many of them, this walk was deeply personal. I felt inspired after this walk to be more open with others about my journey, but first, ask others about theirs and truly listen. My sign said "Weak men fear strong women," and I wrote that in protest to the trend of our country's current political tactics to belittle and bully others. A true leader wants all of her followers to be strong.



Karin Brown

Instructional Designer,
STELAR

I marched for several different reasons. First, I marched in protest of the damaging and unfair ways women are treated, portrayed, and talked about by politicians, the media, friends, and acquaintances. Second, I marched in solidarity with my fellow proponents of gender equity, to show the world that we will continue to fight and we are not going anywhere. Finally, I marched in hope. I have hope that gender inequity will one day cease to exist.

My sign had two quotes, one on each side. One said, **"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion."** This is a line from a letter Abigail Adams wrote to her husband John, who went on to become the second president of the United States.

The other side of my sign said, "Men, their rights, and nothing more. Women, their rights, and nothing less." This is a quote from Susan B. Anthony, a champion for women's suffrage. I chose these quotes partially because I wanted to honor the women who came before me. Without their decision to fight for women's rights, I would not have the freedoms I have today. I also chose these quotes because I loved how they highlighted the past and present superiority of men over women. As a feminist, I believe that men and women should be equal in all opportunities and responsibilities. However, this will never come to pass until we acknowledge the ways that women continue to be treated as inferior to men. For real change to occur, particular care and attention must be paid to the ladies, as Abigail Adams said more than two centuries ago.

I left the march feeling empowered and uplifted, and I hope I can tap into that energy in the days, weeks, and years of fighting that lie before me.



2019 WOMEN'S MARCH MN



Madelyn Larsin

UST-SCU School of Social Work, '21
LDCW Graduate Intern

On January 19, I braved the bitter Minnesota cold to join hundreds of thousands of women and allies across the country who were gathering for the 2019 Women's March.

Marchers from all over the UST community gathered on the bus with our signs, a uniting purpose, and a few handwarmers. We were encouraged to get to know someone new—to share where we were from and why we were marching with them. As one marcher said to me, "If we are going to march together, I better know your name!" That sense of comradery and community stayed constant throughout the day, even with complete strangers.

We arrived at the pre-march rally to the collective chant of: "Whose house? OUR HOUSE. Whose streets? OUR STREETS." It set the tone for an active demonstration—one that we could own, together. We began marching and chanting and with my sign held high in the air, walking next to my dearest friends, my tears weren't from the cold. The significance of this event hit me, as it has every year.

So many people marching for so many different reasons. So many people unable to march, for many different reasons. It is a great privilege.

We gathered on the steps of the Capital Building and were warmed by the bright sun and the heat of our fight for women's rights.

In light of the recent tensions with the national organization, Women's March Minnesota made its commitment to intersectional feminism through education, activism, and amplifying marginalized voices clear at the post-march rally. Inspirational and motivating speakers included Rene Ann Goodrich of Native Lives Matter; Anika Bowie, Vice President of NAACP-Minneapolis; Sara Schonwald of the National Council of Jewish Women-MN, and Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

The day after the march, I received an e-mail from Women's March Minnesota with the title "You marched! Now what?" and a list of action items including upcoming events and legislation to support. Their tagline—"We are more than a march. We are a movement!"—motivates me to march in a way, every day, by contacting my legislators, voting, and supporting organizations that are fighting for the rights of marginalized folks in my community. It is my house. They are my streets.

I am so grateful to the LDCW, Young-ok An, and Christine Balsley for organizing transportation to the March as well as to Kendra Tillberry (Graduate Feminist Community) for planning a pre-March poster making event in the UST Create Space. The LDCW has continued to support my activism, education, and growth, first as an undergraduate and now as a graduate student. I thank you.



HIGHLIGHTING FEMALE VETERANS AT ST. THOMAS



Norman Ferguson, Jr.
Director of Veterans Services

The University of St Thomas, in cooperation with the History Department, Women's Studies, the Luann Dummer Center for Women, and Veterans Services, has focused on female military veterans for the academic year 2018-2019. This is a chance to highlight these brave individuals and look at their particular point of view.

This project has included podcasts where we interview female veterans in a on-on-one setting. Guests speakers Molly White and Kay Bauer have visited St. Thomas and shared their

experiences with a wide variety of audiences. This project will culminate in a viewing of the film "Blood Stripe" on April 15.

We have had such wonderful response to our events this year. Our speakers have touched so many. Several military nurses have come and mentioned how much Kay Bauer, Army nurse in Vietnam, and her message, meant to them. Hearing Molly's talk on her experiences as an Airman in the Air Force has still brought responses from those who attended the Feminist Friday talk, one which produced a standing room only audience in the Women's Center. Our podcasts have been revealing in showing the experiences of our female veterans and their time as a woman service member.

We are privileged to have such a population in which we can learn from and honor.



Feminist Friday: Air Force Veteran Molly White presents "Expectations and Reality"



Alison Kruse gives the toast at the 2018 Inaugural Veteran's Ball at St. Thomas

Check out **UST Speaking with Veterans** podcast at : <https://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/133952>

Episodes include:

- 001: Alison's Marine Experience
- 002: Liela's Air Force Background
- 003: Kari's Time in the Air Force
- 004: Ana's Army and Family Legacy
- 005: Maggie's Identity in the Army

LDCW 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:

<https://www.stthomas.edu/lcdw/grantopportunities/>

2018-2019 AWARDEES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Olivia Checkalski (Psychology and American Culture & Difference Majors, Class of 2020)

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Tamara Gray (Leadership)

Melissa Serafin (Professional Psychology)

Grant Type	Deadline
WOMEN'S STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP	March 11, 2019
LDCW STUDENT LEADERSHIP GRANT	March 18, 2019
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP	March 18, 2019
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP	March 18, 2019
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT GRANT	April 5, 2019
WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANT	April 5, 2019
SMALL GRANT	Applications are accepted throughout the year
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD	Applications are accepted throughout the year

With a **grant from the LDCW**, undergrad Olivia Checkalski threw a Period Party, bringing in Period.Minnesota to discuss the realities of menstruation. Afterwards, students compiled 100 menstrual product packs for women in homeless shelters. Olivia also conducted interviews with male students on campus to gauge knowledge on menstruation.



PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

'WHY DIDN'T SHE JUST SAY NO?': EXPLORING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN WHO VICTIM-BLAME



Melissa Serafin

Graduate School of Professional
Psychology

Graduate Fellowship Recipient

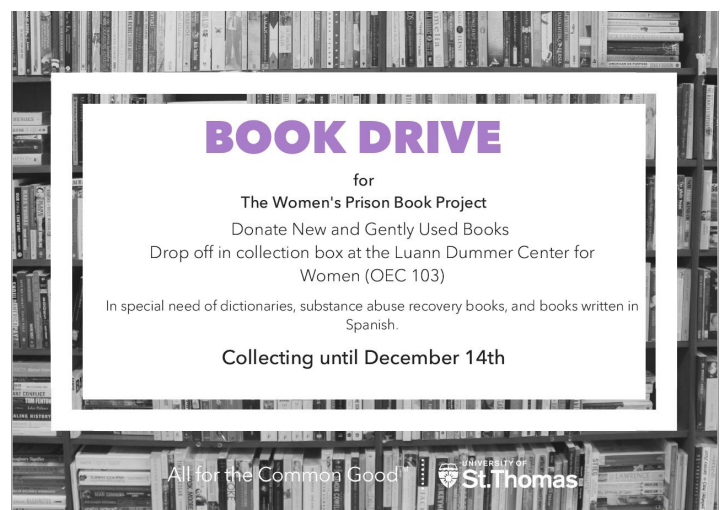
While the “Me Too Movement” has brought significant and much needed attention to the atrocities of sexual victimization, disclosing or reporting these incidents is still relatively rare. This is partially due to the fact that, of those that choose to disclose or report, many victims/survivors will be met with negative reactions, including blame. I was particularly intrigued by the phenomenon of women exhibiting victim-blaming attitudes towards women victims/survivors, since they share membership in the same lower status gender category. My project investigates the differences between women who exhibit victim-blaming attitudes towards other women and those who do not. Specifically, I’m exploring demographic differences and various types of gender in-group identification.

There are several findings that I’ve found particularly interesting. Victim-blaming attitudes are negatively correlated with in-group ties (or an affective sense of being connected with other women), and victim-blaming attitudes are positively correlated with public collective self-esteem (or one’s sense of how other people value women). However, victim-blaming attitudes are not correlated with gender linked fate (or a sense that one’s life prospects are linked to

those of all women) or public collective self-esteem (or one’s personal assessment of the value of women as a group).

These findings have introduced more questions; in particular, I’m considering exploring whether any of these variables moderate any of the statistically significant relationships. I hope to explore these ideas more as I progress towards my goal of a peer-reviewed journal article.

One tangential aspect of this project that interests me is the idea of in-group ties. I would love to explore this more in the future - **how do close friendships between women affect our experience of the world?** I imagine these are hugely influential in how women develop our gender-related attitudes and beliefs. Perhaps if all women had at least one supportive, positive friendship with another woman, we would see less victim-blaming.



As her LDCW student worker project, Kaitlyn Spratt organized a book drive for The Women's Prison Book Project, collecting dozens of books for incarcerated women.

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

STILL BLEEDING



Olivia Checkalski

Psychology and American Culture and
Difference Major; Class of 2020
Undergraduate Fellowship
Recipient

Cultural attitudes about menstruation are finally beginning to change as a result of women making their experience visible by sharing their art, stories, and knowledge about menstruation with the world. I am proud to say that my digital anthology **BleedBetweenTheLines.com** is part of this effort.

When my work was first beginning I had no idea where the project would lead me. After completing the resource, I held two events on campus. In collaboration with Period. Minnesota, I hosted a "menstruation station" where students participated in an activity to learn about periods and homelessness. Later that day I put on a packing party where students participated in a workshop focused on period pride then packed "period packs" full of menstrual products for homeless women. I am proud to report that we made 100 packs to donate and had empowering conversations in the process.

I was also invited to speak to the Biology of Women and Medicine classes here on campus during their reproductive health unit. In doing so, I was able to promote my digital resource while also helping to emphasize the connection between a biological process, cultural ideologies, and social injustice.

Finally, I filmed a MENstruation video where I ask men on campus about periods. I look forward to posting them on the website in the coming months.

Though the majority of my work on this project has come to a close, I continue to add to the site as stories of period feminism continue to arise. For example, here in Costa Rica where I am currently studying abroad, I have found two local artists whose menstrual themed art I have added to the page (one of whom I am interviewing soon!).

What I'm most proud of is the impact I have seen this work have on others and of the personal growth it has elicited in me as a student, as a feminist, and as a woman. While I would once timidly slip tampons into my sleeve to go to the bathroom, I'm now unashamed of my period. While my mother would once blush when I mentioned periods in front of men, she recently spearheaded her own packing party at her corporate job. Everyone from my guy friends to my grandmother have begun to talk about periods. Often on campus I'm greeted with phrases like "**oh, you're the period girl!**" - a title that once would have mortified me, and one that I now wear proudly.

-Olivia Checkalski (the period girl)



Olivia conducts interviews with male students on campus to gauge their menstruation knowledge.

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

THE PERSONAL IS POSSIBLE: RESEARCHING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF MUSLIM WOMEN RELIGIOUS LEADERS



Tamara Gray

Graduate Student, Leadership
Graduate Fellowship Recipient

I set out to uncover the essence of Muslim women's religious leadership in digital religion. In order to do so I spent hours upon hours living in the thoughts and actions of seven prominent Muslim women religious leaders. I also eavesdropped as a researcher on an online messaging thread that included 75 Muslim women religious leaders discussing their lives lived in leadership

Feminism, chaos theory, and Aristotle's theory of knowledge helped me make sense of the data and build a model of Muslim women's religious leadership. I wrote a long dissertation that reported on data culled from interviews, publications, online ethnographies, and observations of public teaching.

I discovered that, though I was an insider in this research, I had internalized some negative stereotypes of Muslim women religious leaders. **I had an expectation of limited access, frustration, and other negative possibilities. Instead I found empowered women who were living their life's work.** My research helped me to rethink my own work. The Muslim women I studied taught me about flexibility and foundations. They chose their artifacts

of leadership carefully, traveled to and fro from websites and social media platforms, formed organizations and schools, and worked with great practical wisdom.

As I move forward into my own life's work, I hope to create a community of practice in cooperation with the women I studied, the women on the thread, and all of the women I took note of along the way. I am grateful to the Luann Dummer Graduate Fellowship for supporting this research and helping me to further our understanding of women's religious leadership. The phenomena of Muslim women's religious leadership has given me increased hope in the power and possibility of all women's religious leadership and the communities we help every day.

FRANKENREADS



Halloween, 2018: In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the LDCW hosted a read-a-thon where members of the St. Thomas community gathered to read the novel in its entirety, taking approximately 13 hours!

GRADUATE FEMCOM



Kendra Tillberry
Creative Writing & Publishing
Graduate Student

Photo above: Kendra holds menstrual products collected by Graduate FemCom last fall for the Department of Indian Work in St. Paul.

Building a community on campus as a graduate student is a difficult feat. There are many things competing for the time and attention of graduate students. But **one thing I realized this year was that community is built when the leader is fully invested.** Last semester I was able to invest more in the Luann Dummer Center than I ever have before. I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Debra Petersen and write a profile piece on her for the *Wisdom's Home* publication. Through that experience, I was able to learn more about the legacy of the Center and what it means for us today. **Did you know that women weren't allowed at the University of St. Thomas until the 1970s?** That was less than fifty years ago. We've come a long way, and we have a lot of work to do to ensure that women feel truly included and appreciated on campus.

I'm working on bringing a speaker to work with us on salary negotiation on Tuesday, April 30th. Danielle Hansen is an expert and adjunct professor in the Opus College of Business trained in negotiation strategy, and she also is a business leader in our community serving as a director of global strategic sourcing at Coloplast. Women face additional challenges at the salary negotiation table, and Danielle will help graduate students and seniors navigate common pitfalls and advocate for their worth. Look for more information about that coming soon.

Thank you for your continued support of Graduate FemCom!



2019 Women's History Month Speaker Ann Bancroft discusses her polar adventures with St. Thomas students, faculty and staff. (She later noted that she really appreciated this opportunity to meet and chat with students.)

WOMAN IN MOTION



Oyuna Uranchimeg

Communication & Journalism

When a friend invited me to the Four Season's Curling Club in Blaine, MN to watch wheelchair curling three years ago, I knew nothing about "curling." I was there just to watch the U.S. National Wheelchair Curling team practice, but then the team members invited me on the ice. That day, I pushed the stone for the first time and I was hooked immediately.

For the next few days, I watched replays on YouTube of all the Team USA Wheelchair Curling matches at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics to learn the sport. I was truly inspired by all the players and I thought that could be me someday. Fast forward three years, I'm one of the eight members of the US National Wheelchair Curling team, a step closer to being in the US Paralympic Curling team for Beijing 2022 Paralympics.

My name is Oyuna Uranchimeg, an Administrative Assistant in the Communication and Journalism department here at St. Thomas. I have been on a wheelchair since 2000 after being in a car accident, which left me paralyzed from the waist down. Soon after that first experience with curling, I joined the Adaptive Curling Program within the Courage-Kenny Rehab Institute and have been curling once a week with my adoptive curling group in the Four Season's Curling Club. To broaden my options for practice, I also joined the Dakota Curling club in Lakeville, MN.

When a call came out for pre-trials for the USA National Wheelchair Curling team earlier in 2018, I applied with my skill drill scores and was invited to

compete in the pre-trials that took place in late May in Denver. Four curlers, two men and two women, advanced to the final round of trials and I was thrilled to be one of them. After my pre-trial success, I trained hard all summer to gain a spot in the national team. My efforts paid off during the final trial in Waussau, Wis. in November where I was named to the USA National Wheelchair Curling team with seven other athletes, 5 men and 3 women (some of whom are two-time Paralympians).

Now my goal is to retain my spot in the national team for the next 2 years and work my way into being in the top 5, which will give me an opportunity **to represent the Team USA for the 2022 Beijing Winter Paralympics.**

Wheelchair curling is a co-ed Paralympic sport and the teams have to have at least one male and one female player. Currently, the majority of the players in the Team USA are male and only one female player in the team who is in the lead position. The fifth, or the alternate player, is also a female to ensure a replacement if something were to happen to the other female player. The US National Wheelchair curling team lacks high performing female curlers, so, **as a woman curler, I have an opportunity to change the trend of male domination in the national team.** I also believe that a presence of more female athletes in the national team will inspire more women to pursue wheelchair curling in a competitive level.



YARN TAMERS



Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects and meeting new friends and colleagues.

Everyone is welcome! If you do not work on any yarn craft, you can come for the social time or to get pointers from other crafters. Those who are interested can just show up at a meeting. Each year, the Yarn Tamers work on a service project of creating blankets for the women and children staying at Alexandra House who have been affected by domestic violence.

During the academic year, Yarn Tamers meet on **Tuesdays from noon - 1 pm in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103)**. Throughout the summer, Yarn Tamers meet on the Monahan Plaza, weather permitting.

If you would like to receive weekly reminders and updates for Yarn Tamers, please email Christine Balsley at christine.balsley@stthomas.edu, and she'll add you to the list.



Left Photo: Yarn Tamers discuss best needle size for projects.
Top Photo: Xmas Party knitting game!
Right Photo: Yarn Tamers line up their accumulated squares to sew together into a blanket donation.

SPRING 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the LDCW website www.stthomas.edu/ldcw for further details or additional events and activities.

(All events are held at the LDCW, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

- Jan. 30 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Noon-1 p.m.
- Feb. 15 (F)**.....Minneapolis Chocolate Reception & Feminist Friday, "Your Story Within the Story" with Sherrie Fernandez-Williams, Terrence Murphy Hall 450, 2-4 p.m.
- Feb. 19 (W)**.....Additional LDCW Book Circle, *No Horizon Is So Far* by Ann Bancroft & Liv Arneson, Noon-1 p.m.
- Feb. 19 (W)**.....*And Still We Rise*, "Owning Your Inner Black Girl Magic," with Shani Tran, 5:30 p.m., Collaboration with SDIS
- Feb. 27 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *No Horizon Is So Far* by Ann Bancroft & Liv Arneson, Noon-1 p.m.
- March 7 (Th)**.....**Women's History Month Lecture by Ann Bancroft, 7:00 p.m., OEC Auditorium**
- March 8 (F)**.....LDCW 25th Anniversary Celebration | "Wisdom's Home" 25th Anniversary Booklet Release & "LDCW Arts," 11- Noon | "Tribute to Meg Wilkes-Karraker," Noon - 1 p.m.
- March 20 (W)**.....*And Still We Rise* with Shiranthi Goonathilaka, 5:30 p.m., Collaboration with SDIS
- March 27 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *The Map of Salt and Stars* by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar, Noon-1 p.m.
- April 3 (Sat)**.....Muslim Women Retreat, Center for Inter-Religious Understanding, 10 am - 4:00 pm, Collaboration with Office for Campus Ministry
- April 12 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, "Making and Unmaking Masculinities," with Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut and Vern Klobassa, Noon -1 p.m.
- April 15 (M)**.....Film Screening & Discussion, "Blood Stripe," 6:00 p.m., Iversen Hearth Room (ASC 340), Collaboration with Veterans Resource Center
- April 16 (T)**.....UAWE Spring Reception & Awards Presentation, 4-6 p.m., MCH 100
- April 24 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking* by Rebecca Solnit, Noon-1 p.m.
- April 25 (Th)**....."Taking Up Space: Fat Feminism" with Amy Pence-Brown, 6:00 p.m., OEC Auditorium, Collaboration with Art History & English
- April 30 (T)**....."When Abuse Comes to Work: Supporting Victims We Know," 9:30-10:30 a.m., ASC 340, Collaboration with Leadership Academy
- May 3 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, "Muslim Women's Voices" with Dr. Sadaf Shier & Tamara Gray, Noon -1
- May 10 (F)**.....LDCW 2018-2019 Grant Recipient Reception, 12-1 p.m.
- May 29 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, Noon-1 p.m.
- June 26 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Daughter of Ireland* by Juliene Osborne, Noon-1 p.m.
- July 31 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Blanche on the Lam* by Barbara McNeely, Noon-1 p.m.
- Aug. 28 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham, Noon-1 p.m.

Luann Dummer Center for Women

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Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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