



Students engaged in Zine making during Out on Britton

The mission of the Women's and Gender Resource Center is to promote and foster gender education and equity by providing resources, sponsoring events and educational opportunities, and encouraging conversation and dialogue. Practicing an intersectional approach, the WGRC values collaboration and partnership as it works toward equity and social justice.

DEAR WGRC FRIENDS AND ALLIES—

I am proud to share with you our annual newsletter. When I was writing last year's newsletter, I would not have imagined that we would still be in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, with yet another highly contagious variant making its way around the country. Although there were brief periods when we reverted to remote learning and programming due to spikes in cases, the academic year was primarily an in-person experience. We were glad to see students back on campus again!

The Women's & Gender Resource Center offered **32** programs with **23** different cosponsors this year. Highlights include—as always—the annual Love Your Body Week, Gender Week, and Take Back the Night. We continued our tradition of robust partnership with the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues and also offered several Faculty Research Lunches in partnership with Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Because during the fall semester we were searching for a director for the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity (a position now ably filled by Rev. Yvette Davis), I took on organizing Building Campus Inclusion Week, which included 7 different events sponsored by various campus departments, as well as lunchtime tabling each day of the week.

This year the Office of Equity & Inclusivity (OEI) and its constituent units (the Asbell Center for Jewish Life, the Center for Spirituality & Social Justice, the Office of LGBTQ Services, the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity, and the Women's & Gender Resource Center) adopted for the first time a shared programming theme for the 2021-22 academic year: *Criminal (In) Justice*. We chose this theme to acknowledge the Black Lives Matter and other protests against police brutality as well as the growing attention to the systemic injustices in our criminal justice and carceral systems. We organized and/or cosponsored a number of programs under the auspices of this theme and also adopted it as our Gender Week theme this year. Gender Week events included a book discussion of *Abolition. Feminism. Now.* facilitated by Prof. Say Burgin (history); our keynote lecture, *Female Offenders: Unlocking their Sentencing Reality*, presented by Prof. Shauntey James (Penn State-Harrisburg); and *Reciprocal Education and Community Healing on Death Row in Tennessee*, a presentation by Prof. Amy McKiernan (philosophy) about her work facilitating a weekly philosophy and social justice reading group with men on death row.

The Inclusivity in STEM planning committee continued its important work. The committee includes a team of student leaders and four faculty/staff advisors, including me. Our events this year included a Welcome event where participants painted pumpkins and engaged in facilitated discussion about their experiences in STEM; a film screening of *Salam the First Muslim Nobel Laureate*; a STEM Undergraduate Researchers Panel; a STEM Advising Event, where several STEM departments joined together to offer an informal advising session for students; and a book discussion of *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*, facilitated by Prof. Jen Schaefer (math).



Students and staff enjoying themselves at Love at Landis during Love Your Body Week.



Love Your Body week kickoff soiree WGRC table.



We were delighted to once again distribute hats and pins with the **Witness the Power** logo. WTP is our campaign to raise awareness of women's athletics and our women student-athletes on campus. I was also able to watch a few in-person games!

My position is a hybrid one, combining my directorship of the WGRC with a faculty role in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. This year I taught a First Year Seminar in the fall entitled *Magic, Mystery, and Mayhem: Imagining Witches*. I've wanted to teach a course on this topic since my graduate school days; this was a wonderful opportunity to work with 17 first year students. For the spring semester, I offered my *U.S. Women Writers* course again.

I have also served as one of the Fulbright Program Advisors during the entirety of my time here. Dickinson has been very successful with its Fulbright applicants and is often named one of the top-producing institutions by Fulbright. This year we had 9 semi-finalists, which resulted in 6 Fulbrights and two of our semi-finalists being named alternates.

This spring I was stunned and honored to receive both the Lambda Award from the Office of LGBTQ Services, presented at Lavender Graduation, and the Joyce Bylander Excellence in Diversity Education Award, presented at the Leadership Recognition Ceremony.

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you the news that I am retiring from Dickinson College as of June 30, 2022. It has been wonderful to end my career with six and a half years here working with the OEI team and others who are committed to efforts to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion on campus. I am excited to transition to a new phase of my life, but I will deeply miss the colleagues, friends, and students with whom I have had the opportunity to work.

I look forward to watching the continued success of the Women's & Gender Resource Center.

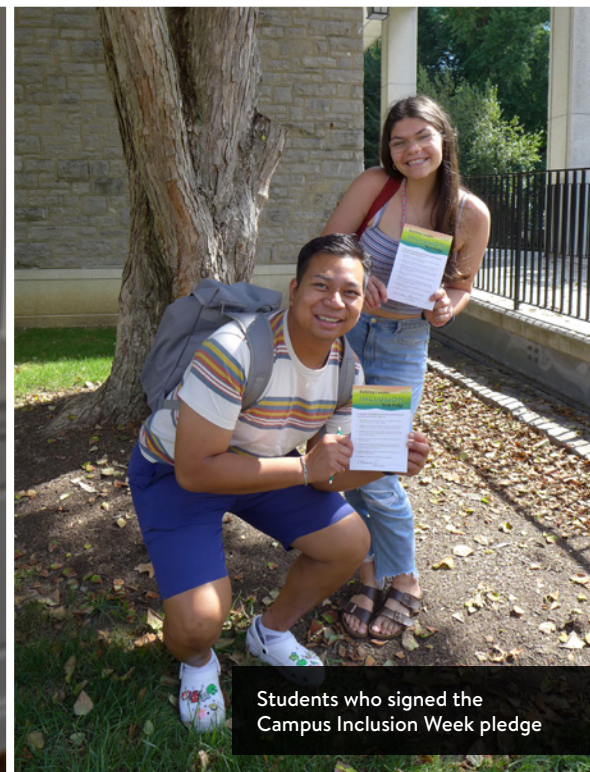
Donna M. Bickford, Ph.D.

Director, Women's & Gender Resource Center

Adjunct Professor of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies



Photo by Dan Loh



Students who signed the Campus Inclusion Week pledge

The Women's & Gender Resource Center would like to thank the other members of the Office of Equity & Inclusivity for their collegiality, partnership, and support: Rabbi Marley Weiner at the Asbell Center for Jewish Life; Cody Nielsen at the Center for Spirituality & Social Justice; Rev. Yvette Davis at the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity; and Todd Nordgren at the Office of LGBTQ Services. We are also extremely grateful for the administrative support of Anne Maitland, whose first days coincided with the beginning of the fall semester! Anne had to hit the ground running and she has become a valued member of the team. She also supports the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity and the Office of LGBTQ Services. We receive additional assistance from Tracie Clevenger, the administrative assistant for the Center for Spirituality & Social Justice and the Asbell Center.

Our deep appreciation goes to our wonderful WGRC student workers: Nhi Ly, Ellen McInnes (who has worked with us for three years of her time at Dickinson), Krisha Mehta, and Grace Moore. We rely heavily on our student workers to help create, organize, market, and staff programs and events; write blog posts for the OEI Blog; and maintain our Instagram page. The WGRC benefits from the skills and talents of these students, along with their strong commitment to social justice and gender equity.