

# Dickinson

## WOMEN'S & GENDER RESOURCE CENTER

*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 encouraging conversation and dialogue.*



2016-17 Annual Report



Photo by Dana Marecheau '20



Dear WGRC friends and allies:

I am happy to share that the Women's and Gender Resource Center has had a busy and productive year; we offered 46 programs in collaboration with 39 cosponsors and partners. One of the highlights for me was organizing Dickinson's first Gender Week as part of our commemoration of Women's History Month. The theme was Gender and Leadership and the week ended with our annual student-coordinated Women's Retreat at the College Farm.

We celebrated International Women's Day in partnership with the Center for Global Study & Engagement by coordinating a panel where we invited several international students to talk about gender issues and women's roles in their countries. This was an opportunity for the campus to learn from the expertise and lived experiences of our international students.

We also started a monthly Latina discussion group to provide space for Latina students to come together to share their thoughts and experiences and to build community; a student facilitates these conversations. The discussion group has been successful and will continue in the upcoming year. I was also pleased to be invited by Sister Circle to serve as their advisor; Sister Circle is a student group that provides programming and support to women of color on campus.

We continued the Witness the Power campaign to provide more visibility for women's athletics and increase fan support for our women athletes. We encourage folks to wear their hats & buttons around campus and to attend athletics events wearing their WTP swag. Half of the shirts for SLCE's February 15 Red-Out also included the WTP logo. This year eight senior women athletes formed The Hera Society. The members are leaders and role models; they created the group to provide programming and mentorship to other women athletes. I was honored to be tapped in as an honorary member of The Heras after Commencement this year. This spring I also served as the Faculty Wear the Red representative for the women's basketball team, which was a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with some of our athletes.

With the support of Vice President of Student Life Dean Bylander, colleagues from Housing and Residential Education, the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice, and I organized a series of Diversity Lunches for Student Life staff. Reading and discussion topics included white privilege, working with international students, responding to student activism, and the growing socio-economic class gap, among others.

We also co-facilitated two faculty workshops, one on inclusive hiring practices for search committee chairs and members with Vincent Stephens, Director of the Popel Shaw Center on Race & Ethnicity, and Mike Reed, Vice President for Institutional Initiatives, and another on inclusive pedagogies, implicit bias and microaggressions in the classroom, also co-facilitated with Vincent Stephens. We added resources on Implicit Bias and Inclusive Pedagogies to the WGRC webpage as a way to provide continued support and resources in this area.

I am excited about building on this work for next year, as well as some new initiatives we'll begin working on over the summer. Thank you to all of the students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community members who attend our programs, support our initiatives, and affirm the value of our work.

Donna M. Bickford, Ph.D., Director, Women's and Gender Resource Center



Photo by Cheyenne Moore '18



**DICKINSON  
LATINA DISCUSSION GROUP**

Please join us for dinner, conversation, and community at our Spring discussions where we'll explore Latina identities on Dickinson's campus

Landis House  
Living Room

February 7: 5:30-6:45pm  
March 7: 6-7:30pm  
April 11: 6-7:30pm



HOSTED BY THE WOMEN'S AND GENDER RESOURCE CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CONTACT DONNA BICKFORD (BICKFORD@DICKINSON.EDU)  
OR  
JACQUI AMEZCUA (AMEZCUA@DICKINSON.EDU)



**Film Screening**

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

SPECIAL ISSUE  
**GENDER  
REVOLUTION**

**Thursday, March 23, 2017  
6:00 pm, Althouse 106**

Come join us for a screening of this film that follows Katie Couric as she explores complex gender identities in the US. There will be a discussion afterwards facilitated by Professor Marchetti from the Political Science Department.  
Food will be provided!

Cosponsors: Women's and Gender Resource Center and the Office of LGBTQ Services

## A Snapshot of Some of This Year's Programming

Along with the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity (PSC) and the Office of LGBTQ Services (LGBTQ), we eagerly welcomed some of the Class of 2020 during a *Social Justice Pre-Orientation* adventure. We met many more of the incoming class during Orientation, the Activities Fair, and other tabling events. This year the Landis Collective also offered *Extended Orientation* programming related to diversity and inclusivity.

Our first event of the semester was the *Landis House Vigil*, organized with PSC, LGBTQ, the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice (CS3), and the Prevention, Education and Advocacy Center (PEAC). The candlelight vigil was in remembrance of all those who lost their lives to violence over the summer in the US and around the globe, and provided space to honor their memory and rededicate ourselves to building a just world. Dana Marecheau '20 wrote that "when I think back to my first meaningful experience at Dickinson College, the moment that resonates with me was when members of the community stood in solidarity, in front of Bosler, for victims of police brutality."

The Fall Faculty Research Lunch series (cosponsored with Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies) included talks by Professor Sarah Kersh (English), *19th-Century Text to 21st-Century Platform: Digital Humanities, Queer Studies, and the Poetry of Michael Fields*; Professor Varsha Chitnis (Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies) *Challenging Patriarchy from Within: Women in Caste Associations*; and Professor Tammy Owens (Africana Studies) *That's Not Research, It's Me-Search! Meditations on Being a Black Feminist Researcher, Reading Silences, and Searching for Black Girls in American History*. In the Spring series, we heard presentations from Professor Sheela Jane Menon (English), *Reading Indigenous Survivance and Malaysian Multiculturalism*; and Professor Kimberly Thomas McNair (Africana Studies), *"Making Something Out of Nothing": African American Protest T-shirts in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Political Movements*.

We worked with the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues and the Churchill Fund to present *Women on the Run: Why Women Don't Run for Office and What Happens When They Do*, a talk by Dr. Jennifer Lawless, a political scientist from American University. This was a timely opportunity to think about the role of gender in electoral politics prior to the November 2016 election.

We brought two nationally-known speakers to campus in October. First, we hosted Col. (Ret.) Lisa Firmin for Hispanic Heritage Month. Firmin retired from the U.S. Air Force as their highest-ranking Latina officer and is currently part of the senior leadership team at UT-San Antonio. Firmin met with groups of ROTC and Latina students, and gave a talk on *Leadership: A Latina Warrior's Journey*, discussing her experiences as a Latina leader, the challenges she faced and overcame, and strategies and advice for successful leadership (with PSC and SLCE).

Later in October, Blair Braverman visited campus. Braverman is a nonfiction writer and dogsledder who is training for the Iditarod, a 1100-mile dogsled race across Alaska. Her first book, *Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube*, is a memoir of her experiences learning to drive sled dogs, survive in the wilderness, and navigate a male-dominated profession. While on campus, Braverman visited classes, met with students, gave a reading from her book, and presented a talk, *Of Ice and Men: Writing about life on the Arctic frontier* (with the Department of English, the Waidner-Spahr Library, and the Department of Experiential and Outdoor Education). Professor Sarah Kersh commented that "Braverman's direct feedback to students about writing in the face of criticism and adversity was particularly useful because she encouraged my students to think about feedback as an essential part of the writing process. . . . she encouraged them use feedback as fuel and to look deeply into themselves and work to make their writing and their perspective as authentic as possible, regardless of negative comments. Blair's message was particularly important for students who were writing about sensitive topics like gender, sexuality, race, and identity."

Each year February brings *Love Your Body Week*, which offers a robust series of programs and events designed to promote positive body talk. The Kickoff Soiree is always a favorite event, and this year's programming included a flash mob, a yoga class, and our keynote speaker, Sonya Renee Taylor, who offered both a spoken word performance and a workshop. Multiple campus units and student organizations are involved in the planning for LYBW.

Our inaugural *Gender Week* immediately followed Love Your Body Week and included a keynote by Kathy Ryan '84, who spoke about *Women in Leadership*:



The Women's and Gender Resource Center would like to thank the other members of the Landis House Collective for their collegiality, support, partnership and vision: Donna Hughes at the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice; Erica Gordon at the Office for LGBTQ Services; Vincent Stephens at the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity; and Kelly Wilt at the Prevention, Education, and Advocacy Center. Thanks also to Landis staff Kim Wampler, Kim Sallie, and Jaimie Phillips, who provided administrative and logistical support for WGRC and Landis activities. We are grateful to the academic departments, campus units, and student organizations who collaborated with us and offered support for our programs.

WGRC student workers Zina Ettangi, Angelica Mishra, and Ella Wiley helped us organize and staff programs and events, prepare marketing materials, write blog posts, and otherwise support the work of the Center. We appreciate their contributions and their enthusiasm, and look forward to their return in the fall.



OR ANYWHERE BEYOND,  
WITHIN, OR IN-BETWEEN THE SPECTRUM  
OF POSSIBLE IDENTITIES...

Your presence matters in this community.  
You have friends and allies.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LANDIS COLLECTIVE.

The Center for Service, Spirituality, & Social Justice; the Office of LGBTQ Services; the Popel Shaw Center for Race & Ethnicity; the Prevention, Education, & Advocacy Center; and the Women's & Gender Resource Center.

@WGRCDICKINSON | @DSOONREDDEVILS

WITNESS THE  
POWER  
♀