One Hundred Years of Montana Women’s Suffrage--

Activism, Careers, Memorials, and Politics as Usual?

**Letter from the Director’s Chair**

Another academic year has begun, and we are very excited about upcoming programming and events! As you all know, 2014 is a mid-term election year and as always, many women’s issues are at the forefront. Gender pay equity, domestic violence, Social Security, LGBTQ rights, and reproductive rights are once again all in the news and on the table for votes. **All advocates of women’s rights need to celebrate this 100th anniversary of Montana women’s suffrage and have our voices heard**! We strongly encourage all of you to get out and vote on November 4th as your vote can make a difference, especially in local and state elections. Elimination of same day voter registration (LR 126) is one referendum facing Montanans—it proposes that voter registration be cut off five days before elections.

We hope our fall programming will highlight and provoke thoughtful discussion about these and other issues affecting women--our roles in government, as activists, role models, teachers and citizens (see more detailed information inside). A panel of political figures, teachers, professionals, and activists will share their stories and discuss ways women can incite change and progress (October 15th @ 5:30 p.m. in the Procrastinator Theater); a panel of female attorneys and judges will talk about career possibilities in the field of law and their experiences as law professionals; Dr. Jessi Smith will discuss the psychology of women’s self-promotion; and Kiah Abbey will highlight the non-discrimination ordinance--- its victories and challenges.

On a much more personal note, the Women’s Center has lost a terrific fan, advocate and supporter in Ms. Frances Weatherly who passed away in August. Many of you probably recognize the Weatherly name because of our Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture series. Frances was the mother of Shannon, and was a professor at Montana State University-Billings for years before her retirement. Frances and Shannon were both strong advocates for the rights of disenfranchised folks and women, and because of Shannon’s involvement on the MSU Women’s Center Board of Advisors upon her tragic death, Frances created an endowment which continues to keep Shannon’s spirit alive through the Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture Series.

I’d like to welcome new staff members, Frances Ambrose and Greta Robison. Frances is a sophomore in Conservation Ecology. She volunteered at the Women’s Center last year and created the FWord Feminist Discussion Group. Greta is a senior in Geography with a minor in Native American Studies, and has worked on many interesting projects throughout her college career including an internship with Mainers United for Marriage—an advocacy project for legalized LGBTQ marriage in the state of Maine.

Lastly, we’d like to say thank you once more to all of those folks who support the Women’s Center and our programming efforts—we had a wonderful response to our “$31 for 31 Years” campaign, as well as the support of many offices, departments and individuals for last year’s pay equity programming and we cherish these new connections and contacts!



Ray Rice, the NFL, and Domestic Abuse: A Complex Reality

Greta Robison

Even if you have never watched football in your life, you have most likely heard of Ray Rice. This past month has seen a media blow up due to the public release of (the now-suspended Baltimore Ravens running back) Ray Rice knocking his fiancée, Janay Palmer, unconscious in a casino elevator. The fight occurred after Janay and Ray had been out to dinner with friends for Valentine’s Day.

In September elevator footage of the fight was publicly published by TMZSports. Since the incident, things have changed for the Rice family. Ray was suspended from two games immediately following the video release and has now been indefinitely suspended. The YouTube video of the incident currently has nine million views and the hype on the matter is not dying down. Social media maintains a constant buzz of criticism and a petition is circulating calling for the resignation of NFL commissioner Roger Goodell due to the original short suspension of Ray and the large time lapse before the NFL took action. Indeed, everyone seems to have an opinion on the matter.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, highlighting the fact that for the most part, the powers that be in the U.S. do not take domestic abuse seriously enough. One in four women experience domestic violence at some point in our lives. Of annual female homicides, one in three are killed by a current or former partner. Three million children witness domestic violence in the home every year. It is rarely reported and abusers generally do not face actual consequences due to situational context and lack of witnesses.

Football is a violent sport where many young people today, boys and girls alike, identify role models. The NFL taking partner abuse seriously is not only crucial on a moral level, it can have a major impact on the views of the public on abuse, assault, and domestic violence. When we change our culture in such a way, we can change the abusive patterns that it supports. The revised domestic violence policy the NFL adopted after the video was released may be the most productive thing to come out of this traumatic event; it may change how coaches, players, fans and our society view domestic violence.

This all noted, the public outcry and endless tweeting on the incident are doing more harm than help. A University of Michigan study shows that, “the same regions of the brain that become active in response to painful sensory experiences are activated during intense experiences of social rejection.” In this way, the public humiliation of the Rice family is continuing the violence. Janay Rice articulates this in her public statement on Sept. 9. She stated that, “No one knows the pain that the media and unwanted opinions from the public have caused my family. To make us relive a moment in our lives that we regret every day is a horrible thing.”

Four other NFL players have been arrested for domestic abuse after the Ray Rice incident, yet though NFL representatives assure the public that the NFL is taking these cases seriously, it is clear much of their response to the Rice case is influenced by the public hype. This is important to understand because using social media to expose the NFL's policies and larger cultural norms when allowing assailants to walk free is positive. However, picking one family, and one incident, as horrifying as it was, especially when Janay Rice has explicitly stated she does not want to be victimized, may be counterproductive.

Serious consequences for domestic abusers are important, but it is not the way we will stop the violence as a whole. Returning to the above statistic that three million children a year witness domestic abuse, and acknowledging that many men have been abused at some point in their lives is proof that violence runs deep.

*(Continued on next page)*

The reality is that domestic abuse is common. This is an incident that has brought about good conversation in regard to partner violence, but it has focused all of our attention on one couple and one incident. If we truly wish to change the culture of emotional and physical partner abuse, we need to sign out of Twitter, stop reading Buzzfeed, and go out into our communities. We need to put the same energy we put into petitions and tweeting into teaching boys and girls about consent from a young age, and we need to speak out against misogyny in our daily lives. If we pursue each day with the intention to change the discourse, the changes will come. If you care deeply about the enormous problem of domestic violence, be willing to do the hard work. Work to change the culture, not just the policies.



Thank you, Women's Foundation of

Montana!

We’d like to express our gratitude to the Women's Foundation of Montana for their generous grant to help fund the American Association of University Women-MT’s $tart $mart Salary Negotiation statewide initiative! WFM’s grant of $4,000 allowed AAUW-MT to purchase two $tart $mart site licenses from the WAGE Project. These licenses will allow AAUW-MT to host an unlimited number of workshops at University of Montana and three of its satellite campuses (MT Tech, UM-Western, and Helena College) and at Montana State University and three of its satellites (MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, and Great Falls College).

Research shows that one year after graduating from college, women are earning an average of just 80 percent of what their male counterparts earn. $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshops train college students the skills and knowledge needed to negotiate their first salaries and benefits packages in the professional world.

In October, Annie Houle, a national WAGE Project facilitator and trainer, will present the first workshops in Missoula, Dillon, and Bozeman. She will also train up to three local facilitators from each of the eight campuses so that workshops can be offered as often as possible within the three years covered by the site licenses.

MSU-Bozeman’s workshop will be held on Saturday, October 25th at 10:00-1:30 p.m. in SUB 233-235, Contact us for more information or, to register, go to: (<http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/tart-mart/>). The workshop is free, but you must register ahead of time. The $tart $mart project also has received funding from the Office of the Presidents of both UM and MSU, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the MSU Women’s Center.

Again, we would like to thank the Women’s Foundation of Montana for their support!

**![C:\Users\sm21\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\YGN37X1V\MP900446453[1].jpg]()$tart $mart!**

**Over the course of her working life,**

 **a woman will earn roughly**

 **$1 million less than a man**

 **-simply because she is a woman**

**Free $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop!**

An interactive workshop designed to give college women the

confidence and skills they need to earn fair compensation

**Date: Saturday, October 25, 2014, 10am – 1:30pm**

**Location: Strand Union Building, Rooms #233-235 on the MSU campus – light lunch served**

**Presenter: Annie Houle, WAGE Project Trainer**

* Learn what the wage gap means to you
* Learn what your salary & benefits should be
* Practice salary negotiation through skill-building exercises

**Space is limited & Pre-Registration is required.**

**Sign up NOW online at** [**http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/**](http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/)

**Brought to you by the American Association of University of Women of MT (AAUW-MT), a grant from the Women’s Foundation of MT (WFM), the Office of the Presidents of UM and MSU, the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the MSU Women’s Center.**

**Get Out and VOTE!** by Frances Ambrose

Celebrate 100 years of women’s right to vote in Montana and join citizens from all across the state to decide who will represent our cities, counties, state, and communities after this year’s election! Our selections for the U. S. Senate and Congress will affect the entire nation. Before you dismiss the election or forget about voting, remember the importance of your vote. When women vote, we are more likely to change and reform policies which can affect our daily lives and our equal rights. Our foremothers fought hard and long and sacrificed much in order for us to be able to vote; as citizens who obey the law, it is certainly fair that we have a voice in the creation and amendment of laws. If you think things should change in society today, why not participate in the easiest way you can?

Many students believe their vote is insignificant and that ultimately, those in power choose our representatives. It is important to realize that this is NOT TRUE, especially in a state like Montana that has fewer voters. Think about it—will a statewide population of under a million people, the final decision on local candidates can come down to one, two, or 20 votes! Your vote has the power to swing the election toward a candidate you think can appropriately represent our state and your rights.

There are many issues facing voters today which can affect your choices, rights, safety, and economic status for years to come. The issue of guns on campus has become a hot topic—how do you feel about members of the campus community being allowed to bring arms to campus with no restrictions? Student loan debt is also a huge issue in the news; the candidate you choose may provide a strong voice for refinancing student loan debts—thus making an impact on your personal economic status for decades to come. Are you concerned about the rights and safety of your GLBTQ classmates and friends? What about your reproductive rights and freedoms? And are you concerned about your ability to register as a voter on Election Day?

Before you go out and vote, it is important to educate yourself on current candidates’ stances on the issues. To help give you a quick overview of Montana’s national candidates, we have put together the chart below; consider which candidates represent your personal values. See you at the polls in November!

Want to explore women’s issues with other thoughtful, engaged students?

Join the **fword** feminist discussion student organization!

weekly meetings:

 **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

For details, contact us at: msufword@gmail.com or look for us on Facebook at: msufword

**Bozeman Fall Activist Calendar**

**November**

**\* Saturday, November 1**: Service Saturday with the Office for Activities and Engagement, 10:00 a.m.-12

\* **Saturday, November 1:** Lady Bobcat Volleyball vs. Eastern Washington, Shroyer Gym, 7:00 p.m.

\* **Monday, November 3- December 4th**: “One Woman, One Vote” online book club and film screening, Museum of the Rockies. Find out more and register with the Extreme History Project at <http://www.extremehistory.wordpress.com>

\* **Tuesday, November 4:** Election Day! GET OUT THE VOTE!

\* **Wednesday, November 5th:** Sex Trivia Night with MSU’s Montana Advocates for Sexual Health, Ballroom A, 6-8:30 p.m.

\* **Thursday, November 6- December 11:** “Shakespeare’s Feisty Females” class, through MSU’s Continuing Education program.

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**\* Wednesday, November 12: Sack Lunch Seminar, What Ever Happened with the NDO? with Forward Montana’s Bozeman Director Kiah Abbey, SUB 168, noon- 1:00 p.m.**

**\* Wednesday, November 19: Sack Lunch Seminar, Teaching Spaces of Possibility for Sex, Sexuality, and Gender with Dr. Danielle Hidalgo, SUB 168. Noon- 1:00 p.m.**

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\* **Thursday, November 27:** Huffing for Stuffing-- Gallatin Valley Food Bank Fundraiser, Museum of the Rockies, 8:00 a.m.

**October**

\* **Saturday October 11:** QSA’s Out Drag Show and Dance,

 SUB Ballrooms, 9-11pm

\* **Wednesday, October 15**: De-Stereotype Me Day, Leigh Lounge, 11 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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\* **Wednesday, October 15: “Movers and Shakers—The Power of Women for Positive Political Action,” a panel discussion, Procrastinator Theater, 5:30 p.m.**

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**\* Monday, October 20:** *BrideGroom:* A Film screening Evening with Shane Britney Crone for National Coming Out Month with MSU’s Diversity Awareness Office, Procrastinator Theater, 5:30 p.m.

\* **Tuesday, October 21:** Screening of the documentary, *VESSEL,* Emerson Crawford Theater, 7:00 p.m.

\* **Tuesday, October 21:** Screening and discussion of the Disney film, Beauty and the Beast, MSU’s VOICE Center, Procrastinator Theater, 6:00 p.m.

\* **Wednesday, October 22: Sack Lunch Seminar: Careers for Women in Law, SUB 168, 12- 1:00 p.m.**

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**\* Saturday, October 25: FREE *$tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop* presented by Annie Houle, SUB 233-235, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This workshop is free, but registration for the workshop REQUIRED, register at:** [**http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/**](http://aauw-mt.aauw.net/tart-mart-2/)

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\* **Wednesday, October 29:** Sack Lunch Seminar, **Putting Her Best Foot Forward: The Social Psychology of Women’s Self-Promotion, with Dr. Jessi Smith, SUB 168, Noon- 1:00 p.m.**

 **A Big Thank You to Donors!**

*Thank you all so much for your donations to our “31 Dollars for 31 Years” campaign. I am truly overwhelmed by the generous support shown by all our friends. It warms our hearts to know that you are out there rooting for the Women’s Center! With your generosity, we have raised money for new library resources, programming, and educational efforts!*

\* Christy Castronovo \* Sheri Blackwood \* Dorothy Bradley \* Alanna Brown \* Katie Cady \* Shelley Coles \* Jill Davis \* Dorothy Eck \* Karen Grigry \* Deborah Haynes \* Ginny Hunt \* Glenniss Indreland \* Linda Karell \* Brad Kemph \* Collette and Steve Kirchhoff \* Sheryl and Randall Knowles \* Ellen Kreigbaum \* Matthew and Kristi Lavin \* Marianne Liebmann \* Michelle Maskiell \* Mary Murphy \* Nancy O’Neil \* Pat Oriet \* Shaun Phoenix \* Adele Pittendrigh \* Linda Ransdell \* Diane Sands \* Jane Schumacher \* Alanna Sherstad \* Becky Sheehan \* Billy Smith \* Jessi Smith \* Janis Strout \* Kathy Tanner \* TART \* JoAnne Troxel \* Julie Videon \* Clarice Walters \*Bill Wyckoff

JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF WOMEN’S VOTE IN MONTANA!

