

WOMANIFESTO

APRIL, 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Student of Achievement Bios	1
April Sack Lunch Seminars	2
Equal Pay Day Event at the Public Library	2
Men Stopping Rape Interviews	4
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events	5
Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture	6

2012 Women's Center Students of Achievement

Conrad Burbank

Conrad is from Reno, Nevada, and is a senior in Psychology who will graduate in May. Conrad was a starter for Montana State University's football program for four years-- an experience that taught him important life qualities such as leadership, discipline, hard work, and resiliency. He won the 2010 Big Sky Academic Award and was a 2011 Sports Network All American Football pick. Conrad is a volunteer for Bozeman's Help Center, and an advocate and educator for MSU's Victim Options in the Campus Environment (VOICE) Center. Conrad's goals after graduation are to pursue a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from the Institute of Psychological Sciences. Conrad feels that he will be equipped to fill a vocation to heal and have a positive impact on the well-being of individuals, married couples, and families through furthering his education.

Katie Bussey

Katie is from Alamosa, Colorado, and will graduate in May with a degree in Kinesiology. She is the captain of the Lady Bobcat Basketball Team and feels that playing at MSU has given her leadership and teamwork skills that she will use while she pursues a professional career as a basketball player. Katie has volunteered for the Special Olympics, Lions Club Youth Basketball Clinic, Swishes for Wishes, is a Math and Reading Aide at

Morning Star Elementary

School, and volunteered for HAVEN's Drop and Trot race. She has maintained a strong GPA throughout her college career, and is part of the All-Conference Academic Team. Katie plans to pursue a professional career as a basketball player and will most likely play on an international team. Katie is presently in Denver at the 2012 Final Four Women's Combine.

Jamie Diehl

Jamie is from Sand Point, Idaho and will graduate in May with a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a Teaching option, and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Jamie is currently living in Forsythe, Montana to complete her student teaching. She has volunteered with America Reads, the MSU Office for Community Involvement, Hopa Mountain, and MSU's Amnesty International chapter. Jamie received a Torlief Aashiem Community Involvement Award as well as a Montana Campus Corps Award for Exemplary Service. Through her work with the Office for Community Involvement at MSU, Jamie has realized the importance and enjoyment that come from serving one's community—however that "community" is defined.

Alicia Exley

Alicia is from Bozeman, and will graduate in May with a degree in Sociology with a Criminology concentration, and minors in both Women's and Gender Studies and English Literature. Alicia is a writer for the *Exponent*, and is currently a volunteer with Mortar Board, MSU's chapter of Triota--the National Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society--and Conversations with Professors. Upon graduation, Alicia will attend the Nevada William S. Boyd School of Law. After studying discrimination issues and policies concerning nonwhites and immigrants while at MSU, Alicia is considering concentrating on Immigrant Law. Her extracurricular activities have taught her much about activism, and the importance of rights for women and the LGBTQ community. Alicia wants to dedicate her career to fighting for rights of those who are continually marginalized in our society.

Hannah Jensen

Hannah is from Plentywood, Montana, and will graduate in May with a degree in History with a Science, the Environment, Technology, and Society (SETS) option. While at MSU, Hannah has been a volunteer with Advocats; Atheists, Humanists and Skeptics of Bozeman; and the Student Alumni Association.

(Continued on Page 3)

SACK LUNCH SEMINARS



SACK LUNCH SEMINARS

APRIL 11

Voices of Survival

SUB 168

Approximately one in four women and one in seventeen men will experience a sexual assault in their lifetime. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the MSU VOICE Center will host a panel of survivors who will share their experiences of healing after trauma. Through hearing their stories, we can all become better advocates and strive to prevent sexual violence in our community--because one victim is too many.

APRIL 18

Prevention in Action:

Green Dots for Men

SUB 168

Sexual violence prevention is often

viewed as a "women's issue," but men play a vital role in ending sexual violence. Members of MSU's Men Stopping Rape (MSR) program will highlight how Montana State University men are involved in the movement to address and reduce sexual violence on campus.

APRIL 18

7:00 p.m.

Procrastinator Theater—

Join us for the Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture by **Dr. Dorothy Edwards**, author of the **Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy**.

(Details on back page...)

Celebrate Equal Pay Day

@ the Bozeman Public Library

Tuesday, April 17TH, 6p.m., Community Room

Yes, it is still an issue....

Join Bozeman Business & Professional Women, Montana Women's Lobby, and the Bozeman Library Foundation for an evening with Congressional candidate Franke Wilmer, and Vice President of Montana Women's Lobby, Corky Bush. An opening presentation will introduce the acclaimed film "Iron Jawed Angels," and the film will be followed by an informal discussion about Equal Pay Day. Refreshments will be served, and this event is free and open to the public! Call 582-2425 for more info.

Courage is like a muscle , we strengthen it with use. ~ Ruth Gordon ~

Student of Achievement Bios (Continued from Page 1)

Hanna Jensen (Continued)

She is a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and was an Orientation Leader. Hannah believes that she understands the many concerns and problems young adults may face while attending college, and longs to be a resource for university students in the future as a student service administrator where she can help people succeed in college. Hannah hopes that one day she will have the chance to make genuine impacts on people's lives during their university experiences.

Alyssa Kreikemeier

Alyssa is a senior from Belgrade, MT, and will graduate this summer with majors in History (Religious Studies), and Modern Languages (Hispanic Studies) and minors in Women's and Gender Studies, and Latin American Studies. Alyssa is a recipient of the Award for Excellence, the Burlingame Memorial Scholarship, and an Award for Academic Service in the Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies. She volunteered for Amnesty International's "Cruelty-Free Drive" to collect feminine products for women in need on Maternal Mortality Awareness Day, and is currently working with the Office for Social Action, UNPNA, in Pamplona, Spain where she is studying. Alyssa would like to find employment on a university campus when she returns to the U.S., and is interested in working with AmeriCorps.

Jenny Lawson

Jenny is from Florence, Montana, and will graduate in May with a degree in Psychology and English Literature and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Jenny is a Board Member for Students Against Sexual Assault, a HAVEN crisis advocate, VOICE Center advocate, and an AS-MSU senator and President. She has received the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award and an Academic Achievement Scholarship. Jenny helped coordinate the 10,000 Hours Project and was the director of Sustainability for the RHA. Upon graduation, Jenny will begin her work as a volunteer in the House of Hope orphanage home in Gulu, Uganda that seeks to provide a loving environment focused on spiritual and emotional healing, nutritional and medical needs, social and life skills, and academic training for war-traumatized orphans. After Jenny finishes her time in Gulu, she will begin to pursue a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology.

Heather Lee

Heather is from Farmington, New Mexico, and is a senior graduating in May with a degree in French. She is currently a French Tutor with the Office for Student Success and a member of the McNair Scholars Program at MSU. She has received two USP grants during her undergraduate career, one of which enabled her to conduct research on volunteer organizations in French speaking countries for Dr. Ada Guisti's forthcoming book, and the second of which allowed her to publish *On the Habits and Customs of Mali*, which describes traditional behaviors and beliefs of the Malian People. Heather just recently found out that she has received a generous scholarship and a Cox Fellowship to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Law in the fall.

LaDawn Kay Medicine Bull

Kay from Birney, Montana, and will graduate in May with a degree in Community Health. She is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, and is half Dine. Kay is involved in Healthy Native Communities Fellowship, the MSU-American Indian Council, and she volunteers for MSU-American Indian Council Pow-wow. For the past two years, Kay has worked with Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity as the Tribal Outreach Coordinator, a program funded through the Centers for Disease Control to prevent childhood obesity. As the Tribal Outreach Coordinator, she has worked with the Northern Cheyenne Boys and Girls Club. After graduation, Kay would like to work with Native American tribes to offer nutrition and physical activity education to reservation communities. She would also like to return to college to earn a Master's degree in Public Health and work for the Indian Health Service.

Shelby Rogala

Shelby is from Darby, Montana, and will graduate in December with degrees in History with a Science, Environment, Technology and Society Option and Philosophy and a minor in Economics. Shelby says her time at MSU has been all too brief, but very rich. She was involved with MSU's Fast-A-Thon, and serves on various ASMSU and campus advisory boards such as the Campus Sustainability Advisory Center and the Parking

Transportation Advisory Council. She is President of the Philosophy Society, Phi Sigma Tau, and debates for the Ethics Debate Team. These varied experiences have shaped, in no small way, the steps she will take after graduation—Shelby will apply to graduate school after a long winter break as a ski instructor. She would like to study some combination of Policy Studies, Economics, History and Philosophy, in hopes of pursuing a life path of work in social and environmental ethics.

Stephani Schielke

Stephani is from Bozeman, and is a Computer Science major with a minor in Mathematics who will graduate in May. Stephani is President of the Association of Women in Computing, is a Board member for Women in Engineering, and is a Montana Space Grant Consortium Advisory Board member. She was President of the Association of Computing Machinery from 2009-2011. Stephani attended the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in 2011 to learn ways to make computing more welcoming for women and minorities. She plans to use her Computer Science degree to work in technology and ideally, to make the world a better place for all its inhabitants. Her time at Montana State has helped polish many of her skills that are so essential to success in our modern times and Stephani strongly believes that it takes a village to accomplish anything worth accomplishing.

Virginia Cathleen Schmidt

Virginia is from Cody, Wyoming, and will graduate in May with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Political Science. Virginia is a volunteer at the MSU VOICE Center where she serves as both an advocate and an educator. She has participated in Reading is Leading, Blood Drives, a Thanksgiving Food Drive, and fundraising efforts for HAVEN. She is a writer for the *Exponent*, the secretary for the Political Theory Consortium, and a member of Mortar Board. During her junior year, Virginia decided to pursue Sociology major; and, as a result, Sociology and Political Science have channeled and informed her passions.

(Continued on Page 5)

M E N S T O P P I N G R A P E : I N T E R V I E W S

History has shown us that the oppression of one group of people by another cannot be stopped without the intervention of allies. To examine sexual violence in a vacuum and label it a “women’s issue” takes the focus away from the perpetrators of this crime--the vast majority of whom are males. We also know that people are more likely to absorb information from their peers. An MSU program called Men Stopping Rape (MSR) understands this and works towards ending the power based personal violence that impacts far too many of our students. MSR began seven years ago, and membership consists of male students, faculty, and staff interested in identifying and reducing the occurrence of rape, sexual assault, and relationship violence. The Women’s Center (WC) interviewed former president Thomas Wells (TW) and current member Zak Reimer (ZR) about their perspectives, engagement, and experiences as MSR volunteers.

WC: How did you become involved with MSR?

TW: I joined when I was a freshman. Dr. Brian Kassar came and gave a presentation in the dorms, and I thought it sounded like a good cause.
 ZR: I joined when I became a VOICE Center advocate and member of SASA.

WC: What are the main goals of MSR?

TW: To provide education and outreach to men about issues of sexual and domestic violence. The term “women’s issues” has long been applied to these issues, and men need to be aware that they can and should be part of the solution. The majority of these crimes are committed by men, so it seems odd that men are not the focus of the discussion.
 ZR: To educate about relationship

violence of sexual assault and the culture that supports these.

WC: Was this an issue to which you had given a lot of thought previous to becoming involved with the VOICE Center and/or MSR?

TW: While I would like to say that I’ve always been as enlightened and brilliant as I am now (kidding), my knowledge of these issues went as far as “I don’t rape women, so I’m not part of the problem.” This is simply not true, but it was all the thought I really gave the issue.

ZR: Actually, no. In fact, training was quite an eye-opening experience. Learning about male privilege and the rape culture has completely changed how I conduct myself and see things that happen around me.

WC: How do your friends/ acquaintances/ peers react to this work?

TW: Most people are pretty supportive of things like equal right for women, but it’s a harder pill to swallow when you say that the language we use and the ways we behave and see the world are contributing to some really harmful stuff. Sometimes people are really supportive and get it, and sometimes people respond with a little bit of hostility. I don’t think that people like to hear that what they are doing could be harmful.

ZR: Mostly they know it’s kind of “my thing” now and don’t really care to talk about the issues. However there has definitely been a decrease in sexist jokes when they are around me.

WC: What do you see as the biggest obstacle to your work with MSR?

TW: I think we live in a culture that says it is OK to dehumanize and marginalize certain groups of people. This is the most difficult obstacle to overcome, because it is such a part of our lives. The first questions that spring to mind when we hear a woman has been

raped are, “What was she wearing? How drunk was she? Was she hitting on him?” These things are so second nature that they don’t even get questioned, and this is the most difficult problem.

ZR: There is just not a lot of awareness about the role men can play in educating and preventing sexual assault and rape. I think that is because of social norms. I think guys see sexual assault and rape as a problem but not necessarily their problem. That’s why I enjoy being a part of MSR. It’s sort of like breaking ground and creating a new social norm that says men can play a critical role when it comes to the prevention of the sexual assault and rape.

WC: How do you assess the success of the MSR programs?

TW: My rubric is that if people are there and they are talking, that is the first step. That’s where progress starts.

ZR: We get a log of feedback during presentations. You can tell when students are hearing something new for the first time. Basically I watch for the look on their face that says “the gears are turning” to know our program is successful.



men•stopping•rape

Student of Achievement Bios (Continued)

Virginia Cathleen Schmidt (Continued)

In the summer of 2011, Virginia spent ten weeks in Mombasa, Kenya living with a local host family and interning at a local human rights organization--this experience helped frame and complete her sociology senior capstone research project, titled, "Language and Inequality in Post-Colonial African Nations." Virginia plans to apply for the Boren Fellowship and African Language Initiative in 2013.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Joo Hee Sinclair

Lizzie is from Bozeman, and will graduate this summer with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She is passionate about sociology and is particularly interested in looking at stratification and intersectionality among race, gender, and class. Lizzie is currently the President of Triota and helped create and revise Triota's constitution. She is the student chair for the Women's and Gender Studies minor, and revised MSU's policies regarding Freedom of Expression, which ultimately passed through the Board of Regents. Ideally, Lizzie would like to have a career that in some way helps the betterment of humankind, noting that "It is often easy to see the flaws in our institutions but extremely difficult to instill change or reform."

Rebecca Sorenson

Rebecca is from Cloquet, Minnesota, and will graduate in May with majors in Cell Biology and Neuroscience and a minor in Biochemistry. Rebecca is a Lady Bobcat with the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Cross Country teams, and was involved with the 2012 NCAA Ski Championships. She is grateful for her experience with the Hughes Summer Undergraduate Research Program as a SURP intern, is a member of the Undergraduate Chemistry Society, and was able to gain research experience during the summer of 2011 by working as an intern in Dr. Brian Bothner's biochemistry lab. She has immersed herself in the medical world by volunteering at Bozeman Deaconess every week and by serving as a volunteer with the Bone Marrow Drive in February. Upon graduation, Rebecca will apply to medical school in hopes of eventually becoming an oncologist. This summer, she will travel to El Salvador to help build an orphanage.

Chelsie Wharton

Chelsie is from Billings, Montana, and is a senior in Mechanical Engineering who will graduate in December. Her outreach volunteer experience includes her work with the Montana Apprenticeship Program for which she developed a Biomedical Engineering outreach program, and with Expanding Your Horizons for which

she led a group of fifteen girls between 6th and 8th grade in group activities and discussions. Chelsie is a member of the Society for Women Engineers, Mortar Board, Engineering Ambassadors, Pi Tau Sigma, and Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. Her research has been extensive, and she looks forward to heading to Blain, Washington this summer where she will be an intern with BP in their Cherry Point Refinery. Chelsie knows that she wants to move into a career that will be focused around helping others."

Elizabeth Wilmerding

Elizabeth is from Baltimore, Maryland, and is a senior in Photography with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies--she will graduate in May. She currently works at the Help Center in Bozeman serving as a crisis-line volunteer, is the VOICE Center Outreach Coordinator and a Students Against Sexual Assault Leadership Board Member. Elizabeth was a co-coordinator of the Tunnel of Oppression Project in February, and was the recipient of last year's President Cruzado Thinking Gender Award presented by Triota. Though passionate about Photography, Elizabeth has decided to pursue a career in Social Work, and is excited to continue her path towards preventing and reducing power-based violence.

VOICE CENTER HAPPENINGS

Event Schedule:

Take Back the Night & Rock Against Rape, 4/12/2012

9:00am: MSU SUB Ballroom C – *Breaking the Silence*: An all-day art display focusing on empowerment

6:00pm: MSU SUB Ballroom C – Speak-Out (survivors and loved ones are invited to share their stories)

7:00pm: North Steps of the SUB – Take Back the Night March (Depart the MSU SUB, heading North on 8th Street, ending at the Baxter Hotel)

7:30pm: Baxter Ballroom – 4th Annual Rock Against Rape Concert sponsored by Men Stopping Rape featuring local band Panther Car

The MSU VOICE Center and Students Against Sexual Assault have always understood the power of speaking out. Rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and domestic violence are often labeled "crimes of silence" because of low reporting rates and social discomfort around public discussion of these topics. With the recent reported sexual assaults in our community, this year's Take

Back the Night will provide an opportunity for men and women to come together and take a stand against violence and provide those who have been impacted by this violence with an opportunity to speak out and heal.

Breaking the Silence art display, Survivor Speak-Out, Take Back the Night March, and Rock Against Rape events provide us the opportunity to come together, share our stories, and raise our voices against power-based personal violence. Join us!

All events are FREE and the community is invited to attend.

The Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture Series:

The Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy

Wednesday, April 18th, 2012 @ 7:00 pm
Procrastinator Theater, SUB, MSU
Followed by a reception in the Leigh Lounge—both events are free!

The Shannon Weatherly Memorial Lecture Series is Sponsored by the MSU Women's Center and the VOICE Center. The event commemorates the life of Shannon Weatherly, a young feminist who was killed tragically in 1982. Shannon was on the Women's Center's founding Board of Advisors and was a person of compassion and varied interests. She loved the simplicity of the outdoors as much as she loved the complexities of critical thought. She was an MSU graduate and attended Iliff School of Theology at the University of Denver from 1979-1981.

Shannon's friends and family fund an endowment managed by the Montana State University Women's Center with the purpose of bringing in feminist scholars, activists and performers who, through their strong and purposeful lives, reflect the life of Shannon Weatherly and inspire students. These lectures, readings, and performances are free and open to the

public. Past Shannon Weatherly Lecture presenters include notable and inspirational musicians, authors, educators, psychologists, filmmakers, scholars, and activists.

This year our guest presenter is Dr. Dorothy J. Edwards, author of the Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy. Dr. Edwards earned her doctorate degree in counseling psychology from Texas Woman's University. In the past she served as the founding Director of the University of Kentucky Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, worked in both counseling and teaching capacities in higher education, and founded the Community Education Program at Denton County Friends of the Family that addresses sexual assault and relationship violence.

Presently, Dr. Edwards serves as the Executive Director of Green Dot, etc., a center dedicated to effective intervention and prevention of power-based, personal violence. As a specialist in primary prevention, she provides training and consultation in the areas of power-based personal violence, organizational capacity building, program implementation, strategic planning and community mobilization. Dr. Edwards

is currently working with government entities, state coalitions, military, non-profits, community organizations, high schools and colleges from around the globe promote these types of prevention and education.

Her presentation will provide an overview of the Green Dot Community Mobilization Strategy and inspire participants to see their role in prevention. Green Dot harnesses the power of individual choices to shift our current cultural norms from bystander inaction to a community that is actively and visibly intolerant of violence. Dr. Edwards will provide an overview of the role all community members have in promoting community safety and will instill hope that together we can markedly reduce current rates of power-based, personal violence. You will leave this presentation with renewed hope and a commitment to do your part to end violence one "green dot" at a time.

We at the Women's Center are proud to have the opportunity to honor Shannon's memory through this lecture series and to host Dr. Edwards as our presenter this year. Call 994-3836 for more info!

