

GET OUT THE VOTE: 2012

What's at Stake for Women in 2012: The Importance of Voting

By The Women's Center Staff

Whether you are voting by absentee ballot or heading to your assigned voting district on November 6th, remember that voting is a great privilege and your voice deserves to be heard. In the past three decades, the percentage of eligible women voters who have turned out to vote has been greater than the percentage of eligible men who voted. According to the Bureau of the Census, 60.4% of adult women voted in the last presidential election. However, only 52% of women aged 18-24 voted, so young women voters need more representation! Though students may not see their vote as important, they need to realize that their voices can be heard and that their vote does count. This is especially important here in Montana; some of the local and state victories come down to a matter of 20 or so votes, so your trip to the polls can make a difference. Make sure your voice is heard and that you encourage your peers, colleagues, and students to vote in this year's election!

Last week's Sack Lunch Seminar "What's at Stake for Women in the 2012 Elections" featured two student leaders as well as a representative from American Association of University Women and one from Montana Women Vote. All panel participants stressed the importance of voting in the upcoming election not just at the national level, but also at the local level and especially for the ballot initiatives that can

affect the lives of women and families. If you need more information on the ballot issues or about individual candidates, come by the Women's Center and grab a copy of the Voter's Guide from Montana Women Vote, or go on their website at www.montanawomenvote.org.

ASMSU Vice President Lindsay Murdock spoke about the "sleeping giant" that is the student body and the pressing need to wake the giant and engage students in the electoral process. Eighteen to twenty-four year old citizens are the most underrepresented group of eligible voters. Although students attending college are more likely to vote than their non-student peer group, focusing on issues that personally affect *all* young voters will increase engagement in the voting process. Topics such as student loan availability, repayment options, and interest rates are of great concern to the vast majority of our students; accessible birth control options and available family planning services are no doubt of concern to most young adults as well as job opportunities and the state of the economy. Murdock also spoke about several upcoming programs being sponsored here at MSU—one is the White House Project, an initiative to engage more females in the political process at all levels (see more about that on page 2) and a fun event called "Speed Candi-dating" which serves to connect individual students with their legislators in a speed-dating format. These events will help interest students in the voting process and strengthen investment in younger voters!

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The White House Project

Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 11:15 am - 5:00 pm
[Strand Union Building, Ballrooms](#)



On Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 11:15 am - 5:00 pm, ASMSU and the MSU Leadership Institute will host The White House Project located in the Strand Union Building at MSU.

The White House Project, founded in 1998 by Marie C. Wilson, is an organization designed to help women emerge as active leaders in business and politics. The project works to coach and inspire women to become the new leaders in society and to diversify the workplace among all disciplines. Students, staff, faculty and community members will be able to participate in leadership workshops that will teach the ambition and creativity necessary for successful leadership and to raise an awareness of the critical role of women in leadership and politics.. Katie Groke Ellis, Dorothy Bradley, Toni Neal, JP Ponnichowski, and Lauren Marsh will be able to mentor these emerging leaders after a day of workshops and networking sessions. Katie Groke Ellis, the Program Manager for The White House Project, will lead the event and moderate the discussion panel. The day will close with a Strategic Story Telling "How To."

The workshop is open to all and costs \$5. Registration forms available through ASMSU, the MSU AskUs Desk and the MSU Leadership Institute—all located in the SUB. Registration forms must be postmarked by Monday, October 15th, as seating is limited. The fee includes a complimentary lunch.

This event is sponsored by MSU's Office of the President, ASMSU, MSU Leadership Institute, MSU Office of the Provost, College of Letters and Science, College of Agriculture, College of Business, Vice President for Student Success, Diversity Awareness Office, MSU Alumni Association, ASMSU Campus Entertainment, College of Engineering/EMPower, Women's Center, and the Honors Department.

For more information, please call (406) 994-7275 or visit <http://www.montana.edu/leadership>

VOICE Center Calendar of Events

Not in Our House: Violence Prevention Training Series

Wednesday 10/17, 5-6:30pm in SUB 233 "Stand Up, Speak Out." Don't be just another bystander, be a positive force in our community by intervening in unsafe situations! This presentation will give you the skills you need to stop a possible sexual assault in ways that are safe and effective. Presented by VOICE Center staff members Jake Losinski and Hannah Wahlert.

Wednesday 11/14, 5-6:30pm in SUB 168 "When no one else can, will you?" No one thinks sexual violence will happen to them, but what if it does? Or what if it happens to your best friend, family member, or co-worker? Will you know what to say? Learn the most effective ways to support survivors and loved ones so that when no one else can support them, you can. Presented by VOICE Center staff members Hannah Stark and Sam Sticka.

Student Against Sexual Assault Campus Provocations

Tuesday 10/23, 3:30-4:30pm in SUB 168 "What Women Want." Panel discussion about how politics and media affect women today.

Tuesday 11/27, 3:30-4:30pm in SUB 168 "Sex on Film." Panel discussion on pornography to follow.

Film Screenings

Monday 10/29 5:30pm in the Procrastinator Theater, The VOICE CENTER will partner with MSU Army ROTC, Veteran Services, and the Women's Center to host a special screening of "The Invisible War," an investigative documentary about the epidemic of rape in the U.S. Military. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with activists and survivors of military sexual trauma. The discussion will cover needed changes in legislation as well as ways to more effectively support and assist survivors.

Tuesday 11/13, 5:30pm in the Procrastinator Theater "The Price of Pleasure." This documentary provides a holistic and academic examination of the pornography industry as it debunks common myths about the genre of film. This film will be followed by a panel discussion.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Monday 10/22, 5:30pm in the Procrastinator Theater, "Aladdin." The VOICE Center will be hosting a FREE screening of Disney's "Aladdin" followed by a panel discussion and critical analysis of the messages the film portrays.

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Navigating the Maze: Returning to College in Adulthood

-By Beth Bakken and Lee Bickford

Returning to school after establishing a career or raising a family can be an exciting yet daunting decision. Here are some suggestions that may help ease the transition back to school:

Scholarships, financial aid and on-campus employment are options that can assist with paying the bills while pursuing a degree. Funding opportunities are available through the Financial Aid office at Montana State University as well as the department in which you are pursuing a degree. You can apply to receive financial aid, in the form of grants and low-interest loans, on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website, www.fafsa.com/. Posted on the wall around the corner from the financial aid office are employment and internship opportunities. On-campus employment offers flexibility around your school schedule and there are wide ranges of opportunities to earn money while pursuing areas of personal interest. An additional benefit to some on-campus jobs is the possibility of freedom to study while at work. Some on-campus jobs require work-study awards, which is an option to select on the FAFSA application.

MSU offers affordable housing through Family Graduate Housing (FGH), which can alleviate

commuting issues such as time and travel expenses. Living within a community of peers pursuing common goals can provide a supportive social network. For example, Beth is a member of an attachment-style parenting group in the community that gathers for regular play dates (both in-town and outdoor excursions), parent's outings (such as to Norris Hot Springs), childcare swapping, and parenting support. It is easy for children in the neighborhood to develop friendships with other children who live in close proximity. FGH also boasts a community garden. For a nominal fee, residents may reserve a plot and have the freedom to grow a garden! Children can enjoy the numerous sandboxes, sprinklers, and playgrounds scattered throughout the community.

For parents who seek childcare, Montana State University offers high quality, low cost childcare. Students in the Education Department who are studying child development may work at these facilities and provide quality care. There are two centers available on campus. ASMSU Day Care is conveniently located between FGH and the center of campus, providing care and educational activities for preschoolers ages 2 ½ to 6 years old and for children who do not need to be toilet trained. Another option is the MSU Child Development Center (CDC), located on the east side of campus. The CDC offers a year-round early education program for children ages 3 to 5. If you are interested in seeking scholarship opportunities to offset childcare

costs, Child Care Connections is a local Bozeman agency that provides state money to qualified persons. For more information, go to www.childcareconnections.info.

Regarding the academic side of returning to college, if you need to review math, science, and writing or learn new subjects and skills, free tutoring is available to ease the learning curve through Smarty Cats Tutoring. Online tutoring registration is quick and simple at smartycats@montana.edu or in person at Strand Union Building SUB 177. There is also drop-in assistance at the Math Learning Center and by appointment at the Writing Center; both are located in Wilson Hall. If you require computer assistance, drop-in help is available at the computer lab on the third floor of Reid Hall.

Students who need assistance with time management skill-building can find help in the ASMSA Office of Student Success, and the Office for Disability, Re-Entry, and Veteran's Services can offer help for any other issues that may arise, including lap-top computer loans. Both are located in the Student Union Building.

If you feel competent in a class subject that is required for your degree, you have the option to challenge select classes by exam rather than complete the entire course, and this can save both time and tuition money. Montana State

University awards credit toward graduation for successful performance in certain Subject Examinations of the College Level Examination (CLEP) program. For more information, please contact the MSU Testing Center at 994-6984.

Choose a degree that will be conducive to your lifestyle and career goals. For example, pursuing a degree in Forestry, which may require extensive travel and/or relocation, may not be suitable for you while raising children. It is important to decide upon the career that will likely follow your major as well as possible locations, salary, and job flexibility.

There are many non-traditional students attending MSU, so there are opportunities to meet and connect with peers in the classroom. Other ways to develop a sense of camaraderie are by volunteering for the many ongoing or one-time activities offered through the Office of Student Activities and Engagement located in the Strand Union Building (SUB) 222 or by joining one of the numerous student organizations. You can find a list of clubs on the MSU Office of Student Activities and Engagement's web page.

Returning to school later in life can be challenging and confusing at first, but once you get in the groove of school, you will no doubt find it immensely rewarding!

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A Big Thank You to Donors!

Thank you all so much for your donations to our “Twenty-nine Dollars for 29 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 over \$1,000 towards new library resources, programming, and educational efforts!

* Christy Baldner Castronovo * Wendy Bianchini * Phyllis Bock * Dorothy Bradley * Corky Bush * Jill Davis * Dorothy Eck * Joseph & Wendy Fedock * Karen Grigry * Jenny Haubenreiser * Julie Hitchcock * Glenniss Indreland * Linda Karell * Brad Kempf * Collette and Steve Kirchhoff * Edis Kittrell * Matthew and Kristi Lavin * Sue Leigland/ Montana Travel * Kristy McFetridge * Carmen McSpadden * Mary Murphy * Nancy O’Neil * Pat Oriet * Stormi Oshun * Shaun Phoenix * Adele Pittendrigh * Martha and Sophie Rotella * Mem Schultz * Jane Schumacher * Alanna Sherstad * Darlene Siedschlaw * Jan Strout * JoAnne Troxel * Julie Videon * Clarice Walters * *Frances Weatherly * Bill Wyckoff *

ADVANCE: National Science Foundation Awards \$3.4 Million Grant to MSU to Expand Female Participation in the STEM Fields— By Lee Bickford

A five-year ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant spearheaded by the NSF was awarded to MSU in September to increase and improve women’s roles in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as well as the social and behavioral sciences (SBS). Despite continual improvements in the number of women earning doctoral STEM/SBS degrees, women remain vastly underrepresented in these disciplines. Further, among over 300 STEM/SBS faculty at MSU Bozeman, less than 19% are women. Many factors unrelated to women’s abilities, technical skills, and interests negatively influence their level of success in STEM/SBS faculty positions.

The ADVANCE grant’s primary goals are to create and sustain all-encompassing, innovative programs for whole-institution transformation that will greatly improve female faculty participation. MSU’s specific goals for this grant include creation and implementation of new policies and methods to augment research opportunities, support to improve the work-life connection, and development and emphasis of more culturally appreciative workplace conditions. Women can represent a tremendous contribution to the STEM/SBS workforce, and this grant is another step closer to realizing and practicing that contribution.

Women Leaders on Campus: A Conversation with ASMSU VP Lindsay Murdoch

Currently, MSU's President, Provost, student body President and student body Vice President are all female. Montana State University is currently the only co-ed higher educational institution in the nation to make this claim. Below, ASMSU's Vice President Lindsay Murdoch, coordinator of the upcoming White House Project training discusses leadership, student engagement, and her personal role models.

Women's Center: What do you feel is the greatest challenge for students in leadership on the MSU campus?

Lindsay Murdoch: Kiah (ASMSU president) put this really well earlier when she said that student leadership is relatively incestual on our campus. We have the same handful of people who are involved in practically EVERYTHING. Part of leading students is a battle against apathy, but I think also helping them discover extracurricular activities and seeing this as an extension of their education is vitally important.

WC: *What do you feel is most encouraging about your position of leadership now and how is it preparing you for a future in leadership?*

LM: I am continually encouraged and inspired by all of the people surrounding me. The position is very difficult because you deal with such a wide range of things throughout the course of a day - everything from personnel issues to policy issues to balancing school and work - and everyone is expecting you to give 100% to their specific issue. This constant struggle is difficult, but it's also good preparation for the future.

WC: *What are your goals for actively engaging students this year on campus?*

LM: Through the Say Yes campaign, we are hoping to broaden the definition of engagement, which will ideally help more students recognize what their engagement looks like. We're also reaching out to the students more and will be hosting ASMSU Open Houses to help get students in the office and connect with us and one another about important issues on campus. We are also planning to conduct listening sessions and hope through these sessions that we will be able to connect with more constituents and gain a wide range of insight from students across campus.

WC: *What excites you most about the upcoming White House project training?*

LM: I am excited to finally see this project coming together! I was inspired to try to bring the WHP here last March, so it is exciting and a little nerve wracking to know it will be here in less than a month. Beyond that, I am excited for a day dedicated to empowering female leaders and celebrating all the wonderful women we have on campus and in the community. I have heard nothing but spectacular things about the trainings that the White House Project presents, so I feel very fortunate to be able to be a part of one.

WC: *What woman or women serve as role models for you in your position of leadership and in your life?*

LM: My mom has always been an incredible role model for me because she has always helped me to break the traditional gender norms. She's got her Masters in ecology and was a STEM major before it was "hip." She has always been an incredibly hard worker, and has pushed me to pursue my dreams, even when it seems unrealistic. Another woman I consider a role model is Marie Wilson, the founder of the White House Project. She was the first person to coin the term "you can't be what you can't see." While I do think that role models can come in all shapes, sizes, races, and genders, I do really agree with this sentiment at some level. Women are 51% of this population, yet are incredibly underrepresented in positions of power. Women make up only 17% of congress, 3% of Fortune 500 CEO's and 3% of media executives. This is an enormous problem, and Wilson was one of the first and most vocal people to question these numbers. We need to start normalizing the images and realities of women in positions of power and help to make these numbers equal! Finally, I really love Provost Potvin and President Cruzado. They are both incredible leaders, and wonderful compliments to each other. Watching their work gives me immense hope for my future and this wonderful university we all know and love. Go Cats!

Don't forget about these great upcoming Sack Lunch seminars!

October 17: *Women's Health Under Attack* at noon in SUB 168 We've seen it in the news, we've heard it from the pundits: women's health is under attack. Join Lindsay Love, Communications manager for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana for a discussion of women's health, the importance of the youth vote, and what you can do to stand up for reproductive health and justice in Montana.

October 24: *How To Create a Money Breakthrough in Your Business and Your Personal Life: Five Secrets to Increase Your Self-worth AND Your Net Worth* at noon in SUB 168 This presentation by Financial Consultant, Leslie Cunningham, is for entrepreneurs, solopreneurs, coaches, consultants, and anyone who is ready to create a money breakthrough in their business or their personal life.

October 31: *Crisis Pregnancy Centers: Comprehensive Health Care?* At noon in SUB 168 While many women no longer have convenient access to reproductive health clinics, and very few have access to abortion providers, almost everyone in the U.S. has a Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) or Pregnancy Resource Center nearby. The purpose of these centers is solely to counsel pregnant women against having abortions-- not to provide medical care or information about their options, as their advertising often suggests. Join Montana Advocates for Sexual Health (MASH), and Students for Choice as they put a spotlight on Crisis Pregnancy Centers and address some myths and facts about birth control and pregnancy options.

