

Carolina Women's Center



YEAR IN REVIEW
2013



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEAR CAROLINA WOMEN'S CENTER SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS,

Thank you for your support of the Carolina Women's Center this year. Your assistance and encouragement have helped us create new programs and resources for the students, staff, and faculty on campus. We are grateful for all of your contributions, ideas, and ongoing efforts to promote gender equity at UNC and in the greater community.

This past year has been incredibly dynamic, demanding, and inspiring. Over the past 12 months, we have learned a lot about the urgent needs facing women and people of all genders at our university. While we continue to improve our responses to and prevention of all forms of violence on our campus, we know that we have much work to do. We appreciate that we have extraordinary campus partners who work with us every day to improve our campus community, and we are grateful for our alumni, community partners, and other allies who support these ongoing efforts.

As we continue the work of shaping our campus through academic and experiential opportunities, we continue to connect with students, staff, and faculty on a range of issues to promote gender equity in every way we can. This year, we introduced several new programs that provided opportunities for individuals to participate and learn about these issues in a variety of ways.

In 2013, we initiated our first Moxie Project cohort, led two Alternative Break Experiences, provided two UNC Faculty Members with funding for innovative projects, and conducted a thorough needs assessment to identify the ways in which we could better support UNC staff across the campus. We hosted more than 20 student workers and interns, provided numerous educational programs, offered our annual "Gender Week" activities, and brought activist and author Jaclyn Friedman to campus. Our ongoing programs continue to be informed by the needs of our community, and include efforts related to personal safety, health challenges, work/life balance, and personal financial security.

The Carolina Women's Center is looking forward to an even more dynamic year in 2014. With your help, we will strive to meet our goal of expanding our range of programs, internships, and academic and experiential opportunities to engage students, faculty, and staff in efforts to promote gender equity on our campus and in the community.

Please consider making a gift today to support these efforts. We look forward to working in partnership with you as we begin the New Year.

Sincerely,

CHRISTI HURT

Director, Carolina Women's Center

INTRODUCING THE MOXIE PROJECT: BUILDING WOMEN'S ACTIVISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT UNC

In Summer 2013, the Carolina Women's Center in collaboration with the Southern Oral History Program, the Women's and Gender Studies Department, the History Department, and supported by the Office of the Provost introduced the Moxie Project at UNC. Adapted from the Moxie Project at Duke University, the Moxie Project at UNC is a selective and innovative curricular program in women's history and activism that deeply connects scholarship with hands-on learning.

The Moxie Project offers students an exciting and challenging introduction to the long history of the women's movement and their own relationship to its current state, and contributes to both the research and the outreach mission of the University. The 2013 Moxie Scholars described their positive experience with the project. After finishing her internship, one Moxie Scholar stated, "Without this internship I don't think I would have ever reached this point of urgency in my activism."

This year, UNC undergraduates selected for the program begin the Moxie Project with the spring semester course on gender and equality. Moxie Scholars then develop their own sense of community engagement and advocacy through eight-week long summer internships with women's organizations in the Research Triangle area. The Moxie Scholars meet weekly during the summer to reflect on their week's work, discuss related readings, and meet with the staff of the organizations. During internships, the Moxie Scholars also collect oral histories from staff at their organizations for the Southern Oral History Program's collection.

As part of the program, each Moxie Scholar receives a stipend to support them during the summer, so that they can focus their attention on the internship. The Moxie Project is a high-impact project that benefits students and the greater North Carolina community.



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*“CAN WE FIND
A PULL QUOTE
FOR THIS
SPACE?”*

JACLYN FRIEDMAN AT GENDER WEEK—

In March, Jaclyn Friedman served as the keynote speaker for the Carolina Women’s Center’s “Gender Week.” In keeping with the theme of the week, “Mapping the Margins,” Friedman’s speech explored questions at the intersections of sex and safety.

Entitled “What You Really Really Want: How to Pursue a Real Sexuality in the Real World,” Friedman’s discussion focused on the mixed messages women receive from the media regarding sexuality and safety. Participants built new skills for safely expressing their sexuality with lovers, exploring effective ways to talk about tricky issues with family and friends, and learned how to make the world a little safer for everyone else’s sexuality along the way.

JACLYN FRIEDMAN

Jaclyn Friedman is a writer, an activist, and the founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit organization Women, Action, & the Media. Friedman was the editor of the book *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*. Her new book *What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl’s Shame-Free Guide to Sex & Safety*, was published in November 2011, and was a finalist for ForeWord’s Book of the Year Award in Women’s Issues. Friedman holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College.

GENDER WEEK:

Held from March 18-22, 2013, the goal of “Gender Week” was to encourage the campus and greater communities to better understand and map the intersections of identity and examine the ways that gender, race, class, etc. influence our daily lives. Other “Gender Week” events included a Wage Gap Bake Sale, as part of the Ackland Film Forum screening of *Pariah*, the University Awards for the Advancement of Women, and the Chancellor’s Fireside Chat.



ALTERNATIVE BREAK EXPERIENCES

The Carolina Women’s Center initiated alternative break trips for students over their Fall and Spring Breaks in 2013. This year was the first time the CWC provided alternate break opportunities for students. Due to the success of the trips, the CWC plans to continue offering them in the future.

In March, a team of ten undergraduate students took a nine-day trip to eastern NC. The team visited New Bern and Wilmington, NC to work with The Promise Place at the Carousel Center on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and advocacy organizations. During the trip, the team performed manual labor including painting, sanding, and yard work, collected over 4,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, and helped out with the Brigade Boys and Girls Club after school program.

Over Fall Break, the CWC led a group of nine undergraduate students on a three-day trip to the North Carolina mountains. The group partnered with Our Voice, a rape crisis center in Asheville, to work with their bar outreach program. The bar outreach program seeks to train bar staff on how to recognize and prevent drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault (DFSA). The students spent two days speaking with bar managers and bartenders in Asheville, NC about DFSA, common signs, and measures to prevent it. Shelley Gist, organizer of the alternative break trip, stated that “our next step is to bring what we learned back to Chapel Hill and contribute our knowledge and experience to help make Raise the Bar Chapel Hill a successful bar outreach program here in our own community.”

On both trips, the groups were also able to spend time relaxing and enjoying the break. On the Spring Break trip, the group explored the two towns and visited the beach. On Fall Break trip, the team stayed in a farmhouse that was built in the early 1800’s. The group spent time cooking together, hiking through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, and exploring downtown Asheville. One student who attended the Spring Break trip stated that “The daily grind and stress of UNC had made me forget about my true passions, but this trip made me remember my deep desire to combat issues of social justice.”

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FACULTY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Carolina Women’s Center, with support from the Office of the Provost, hosted two Faculty Scholars in 2013. The Faculty Scholars Program provides an excellent opportunity for faculty members to receive funding in support of a scholarly project that is related to gender equity and the priorities of the Carolina Women’s Center. Scholars participate in CWC programs and events and give a presentation about their research and the status of their project.

The Spring 2013 scholar was Dr. Emily Burrill, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies. During her time as a CWC Faculty Scholar, she gave a talk titled “States of Marriage: Gender, Justice and Rights in 20th Century Mali and Beyond” in which she discussed the ways her book project led her to consider broader questions about the role marriage plays in forming ‘women’s rights as human rights’ categories.

The Fall 2013 scholar was Dr. Nadia Yaqub, Associate Professor of Asian Studies. She spent her time as a Faculty Scholar working on a database documentary, tentatively titled *Palestine in Lebanon*, about *Bayt Atfal al-Sumud*, an innovative social program created and run by Palestinian women to care for the orphans of the 1976 siege and destruction of the Tal al-Za’tar neighborhood of East Beirut. Her research concerns the role of Palestinian women in the 1968–82 Palestinian Revolution in general, the conditions that gave rise to the need for Bayt Atfal al-Sumud, and the opportunities and challenges of representing this history through a digital humanities project.

OUR MISSION

is to create an inclusive education and work environment where gender is not a barrier to success, difference and diversity are celebrated, and everyone is safe to live, learn, teach, and work without threat of harm or unequal treatment.

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