



YEAR IN  
REVIEW  
2014

# Carolina Women's Center



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

# Dear Friends of the Carolina Women's Center,

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for your support over this past year. With your help, we have expanded the reach of the Carolina Women's Center to serve more students, faculty, and staff and to make sure that gender is not a barrier to anyone's success at Carolina. Thank you for helping us with this important work.

The Carolina Women's Center has continued to grow our programs and advocacy efforts across the campus this year. With the support of grant funds, we hired a new staff person to assist survivors of all forms of interpersonal violence. More information about these services is inside this report.

Additionally, we are very proud of our leadership on the Task Force that proposed revisions to the *Policy on Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment, Including Sexual Misconduct*. In light of new federal requirements and in response to student advocacy, the University charged a 22-person, University-wide Task Force to provide recommendations about how to improve our policy to better meet the needs of our students. The University implemented the Task Force's recommendations on August 28, 2014.

We have also enjoyed another year of robust programs for our students. The second Moxie Project cohort nurtures the next generation of leaders, while our Alternative Break Trips educate students about serving local communities. At any given moment, dozens of volunteers and student interns are working on a wide range of projects in our office, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment to gender equity.

We are proud of our faculty and staff work as well, and we are working to increase our programming and advocacy efforts on their behalf. We continue to advocate for family friendly policies, increased childcare access, and additional resources to serve all members of our campus community.

While we are incredibly proud of our efforts over the past year, we are also certain that we have much more work to do. We will continue to build the capacity of the CWC to promote gender equity and advocate for everyone on campus. With your support, we can expand those efforts to reach more students, faculty, and staff.

Many thanks for all you do to promote gender equity in your communities.

Sincerely,  
CHRISTI HURT,  
Director

## INTRODUCING THE GENDER VIOLENCE SERVICES COORDINATOR

**UNDER THE AEGIS** of UNC's new *Policy on Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment, Including Sexual Misconduct*, the Women's Center is now home to the newly created position of Gender Violence Services Coordinator (GVSC). As the GVSC, Cassidy Johnson acts as one of the campus's few confidential resources, which means she is not required to report incidents to the Equal Opportunity and Compliance office. The GVSC is available to students, faculty, and staff of all gender identities who have experienced gender-based violence, either before or during their time at UNC.

Gender-based violence is "the general term used to capture violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with each gender, along with the unequal power relationships between ... genders, within the context of a specific society" (Bloom 2008, p14). The GVSC acts as an advocate and provides survivors with emotional support, answers questions about reporting options at the University, assists in navigating through the reporting process, and connects survivors to support options at UNC and in the community.

The GVSC also collaborates with a number of other offices on campus. Student Wellness, the Office of Dean of Students, and Equal Opportunity and Compliance partner with the GVSC to provide HAVEN (Helping Advocates for Violence Ending Now) training to students, faculty, and staff. This educational program enables UNC community members to support survivors of gender-based violence and know what resources are available to them. The GVSC is also partnering with Student Wellness, Equal Opportunity and Compliance, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement to launch a pilot program called Delta Advocates. The Delta Advocates program will train members of UNC-CH's Greek community to provide support and prevention programming to the Greek community related to issues of gender-based violence.

The Women's Center welcomes the Gender Violence Services Coordinator and the opportunity to provide more robust, streamlined, and coordinated support to survivors of gender-based violence.

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-WA-AX-0002 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*



**"WITH THESE FRIENDS AND MENTORS, I  
GREW EMOTIONALLY AND ACADEMICALLY,  
FURTHER DEVELOPED MY THOUGHTS ABOUT  
THE WORLD I LIVE IN, AND LEARNED MORE  
ABOUT WHO I AM AND WANT TO BE."**



*“MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CAROLINA WOMEN’S CENTER HAS ALLOWED ME TO CULTIVATE MY PASSION FOR MAKING PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY MATTER. NO MATTER YOUR RACE, GENDER, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, THERE’S A PLACE FOR YOU AT THE WOMEN’S CENTER!”*



## FOR OUR STUDENTS

**THE CAROLINA** Women’s Center now has a program coordinator who is focused wholly on the needs of undergraduate and graduate students. Since joining the staff in August, Shelley Gist has been working to strengthen our existing programs while also developing new projects.

## THE MOXIE PROJECT

**2014 SAW** The Moxie Project’s second year at UNC. A 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, the Moxie Project at UNC combines academic grounding with a community engagement project. Students completed “The Struggle Continues: Women of Color in Contemporary U.S. Social Movements, now a full-length Spring semester class. They then undertook summer internships with various community organizations, such as the Pauli Murray Project, Lillian’s List of NC, and Women AdvaNCe, to develop their own sense of activism and community engagement. As one student reported, “Being a part of the Moxie Project was one of the most amazing opportunities I’ve had as a Carolina student because it allowed me to cultivate activist leadership skills in a supportive environment and apply what I learned about social justice and activism outside of the classroom.”

## ALTERNATIVE BREAK EXPERIENCES

**AFTER THE SUCCESS** of last year’s pilot, the Carolina Women’s Center again offered alternative fall and spring break experiences in 2014. We are gratified by the 50% increase in applications for both trips! These experiences combine learning about the location’s needs with working alongside local organizations to address issues of gender inequity.

In March, 9 students returned to eastern North Carolina. While the team faced some challenges, those challenges also provided opportunities to understand better the relationship between classroom and experiential education. The CWC also deepened its relationship with Promise Place, a sexual assault resource center in New Bern, and we look forward to a group of students returning in 2015.

Over the October Fall Break, 8 students participated in the student-lead trip to Asheville, NC. The students partnered with Our Voice, a rape crisis center, to participate in its bar outreach program. The project, which trains bar staff to recognize and prevent drug and alcohol facilitated sexual assault (DFSA), has already inspired an ongoing Chapel Hill-based outreach program, Raise the Bar. As one participant said, “We look forward to seeing how we can use our experiences in Asheville to benefit our Chapel Hill community.”

Both trips gave students the opportunity to connect with classmates who share their investments in working for gender equity—as well as just have fun. In Asheville, students took advantage of the beautiful fall weather to go hiking.

# FACULTY AND STAFF

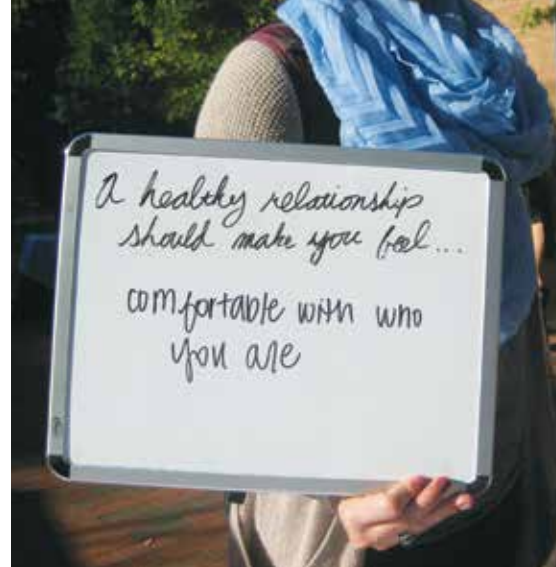
**AS PART ITS GROWTH IN 2014**, the Carolina Women's Center added a new program coordinator position in September to focus solely on programming and advocacy for faculty and staff. We are thrilled about the possibilities this position creates to reach and serve more members of our community. Whether hosting workshops on strategies for more effective salary negotiation or advocating alongside faculty and staff for more family friendly campus resources, the Center continues to strive for greater gender equity across UNC.

The Center continued the Faculty Scholars Program, awarding three grants of \$10,000 each for 2014-2015. Supported by the Office of the Provost, this funding enables Faculty Scholars to focus on scholarly and creative projects that further gender equity broadly and reflect the mission of the CWC. During Fall 2014, each recipient will complete her respective project, prior to presenting a public lecture in Spring 2015.

**JOANNE HERSHFIELD**, Professor and chair of the Women's and Gender Studies department, will complete "Planting the First Seed: Making a Home for Formerly Incarcerated Women," a documentary film about Benevolence Farm in Alamance county, North Carolina. A newly established program, Benevolence Farm "provide[s] an opportunity for women leaving prison to live and work on a farm where they grow food, nourish self, and foster community" and "to create a more equitable, just, and nurturing world for women and communities they transform."

**SUSAN HARBAGE PAGE'S** project creates an "Anti-Archive" of the objects that undocumented migrants leave in their wake as they cross the Mexico-US border. As the culmination, "Objects from the Borderland," an art book of Page's photographs and scholars' essays about the border's political and cultural context, will "testify to a life that has moved on ... [and] what else may have been left behind." Page is an assistant professor in the Women's and Gender Studies department.

Helen W. & Thomas L. Umphlet Distinguished Professor in Aging at the School of Nursing, **MARY HAPPEL PALMER** studies the long-term consequences of women's gendered toileting behaviors (for example, "hovering" over a public toilet because of engrained fears about dirt and disease). "Enhancing Women's Lives Through Bladder Health" develops a "conceptual model" for understanding the behavioral and cultural influences on women's bladder health. Deeply collaborative, Palmer's project also includes mentoring younger scholars in women's health.



# 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.

## STAFF

Christi Hurt, Director  
Cassidy Johnson, Gender Violence Services Coordinator  
Clare Counihan, Program Coordinator (Staff and Faculty)  
Shelley Gist, Program Coordinator (Students)

## STUDENT STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND INTERNS

Sammy Bauer, Diamond Brown, Mijal Bucay, Dara Burg, Anna Cantwell, Sylvia Chen, Casey Crow, Megan Dale, Allison Davis, Achsah Dorsey, Brittanie Fisher, Gabrielle Gibson, Shawwna Gladney, Maggie Grant, Molly Green, Tomi Hackett, Alex Hamilton, Cosima Hernandez, Brandi King, Amanda Kubic, Debanjali Kundu, Joy Liburd, Mallory Lowe, Nikki McCurry, Maria Noyola, Yaa Ofori-Marfoh, Sarah Pederson, Victoria Petermann, Juliette Price, Katie Reiter-Lavery, Patrick Ryan, Hannah Saggau, Hannah Smith, Anna Taylor, Stephanie Tepper, Sarah Tomlinson, Naomi Uyeda, Callie Wallace, Anne Zhou



*"MY EXPERIENCE WHILE WORKING AT THE CAROLINA WOMEN'S CENTER HAS GIVEN ME MORE INSIGHT ON HOW TO MAKE THOSE AROUND ME MORE AWARE OF GENDER EQUITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT."*

## WAYS TO CONTACT US

**CALL:** 919-962-8305

**MAIL:** Campus Box 3302  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3302

**VISIT:** 150 South Road, Stone Center, Suite 101  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3302

**EMAIL:** [cwc@unc.edu](mailto:cwc@unc.edu)

**HOURS:** Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
or by appointment

**WOMENSCENTER.UNC.EDU**



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

CAMPUS BOX 3302  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3302

Non Profit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Permit Number 177

