



WOMEN'S VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

August/September 2004, Volume XXVII, Issue 1

Welcome (back) to Vanderbilt!

Welcome to Vanderbilt University! If you are new to Vanderbilt or a returning student, faculty or staff member, we at the **Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center** would like to welcome you. We invite you to visit our center and take part in our **Gender Matters** programming and the many support groups we sponsor. We are located at 316 West Side Row. The staff of the Women's Center can provide educational programming on a variety of women's issues. They can also provide support and referrals to helping agencies and departments. Programming at the Women's Center changes constantly and is updated regularly on our website, www.vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter

The Women's Center houses its own **library** that primarily features books on women's issues. (please see page 3 for more details on the library.) The Women's Center publishes a monthly newsletter, *Women's VU*, that covers topics both timely and central to the pursuit of gender equity, highlighting upcoming Center and Vanderbilt events of special interest. For details on August and September events and group meetings, please refer to our Calendar on page 4.

The Women's Center is also known for our innovative campus-led programming on the topic of violence against women. The Program, **Project Safe, (322-1333)** was created through a grant from the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office to combat violent crimes against women on campus. Project Safe's mission is to create a coordinated community response to violence against women on Vanderbilt University's campus. Services include educational programming, referrals, support groups, crisis counseling and advocacy. Please refer to our website for more information www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/ProjectSafe

Project Safe Programs:

Hand in Hand 936-7273

Hand in Hand is a campus organization devoted to helping students, faculty, and staff with questions related to violence against women. Hand in Hand volunteers are trained to answer questions about the campus judiciary process, the legal process, medical concerns, etc., and can refer you to on-campus and off-campus resources. Training sessions are held twice a year.

On Saturday, August 7th, a group of 30 women from Vanderbilt joined Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's for an all Women's Build. They were



joined by the hardworking homeowner as they put their skills to work at various tasks, including installing siding and insulation--a job well done!

Photos by Misa Culley

Men Promoting A Solution (MPAS) 322-1333

Founded in the Fall of 2000, MPAS is dedicated to combating violence against women through education and activism. Members of MPAS are trained peer educators who facilitate discussions about the role of men in ending rape, dating/domestic violence and stalking.

Peer Educators of Project Safe 322-1333

Founded in the Spring of 2002, the Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate discussions and create programming about issues related to violence against women.

Please contact the Women's Center if you are interested in any of these programs.

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For more information, please see our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Women's Center Mourns the Passing of Albert Werthan, Civic Leader and MCWC Supporter

We are saddened to report that this July one of most stalwart supporters of the Women's Center, Albert Werthan, passed away. He was 97. Mr. Werthan was husband to the late Mary Jane Werthan, the first female member of Vanderbilt's Board of Trustees and for whom the Mary Jane Werthan Award is named. In fact, it was the Werthans who endowed the award and set the standard of excellence service and to their community that the award represents.

Albert Werthan, although retired, was an influential business and civic leader, and patriarch of Nashville's Jewish community. In 1997, the Werthans provided the funding for an endowed Chair of Jewish Studies in Vanderbilt's Divinity School. He served as president of the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Community Council, Temple Ohabia Shalom Congregation and Brotherhood.

Mr. Werthan was also very involved in the cultural life of Middle Tennessee as an active patron of the arts. He served as president of the Nashville Symphony Association and president of Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, as well as an emeritus trustee of Fisk University.

We extend our condolences to his family.



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Address changes: Please contact our office manager, Robin Van Arman

Deadline for newsletter: Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Staff News

Over the summer, we at the Women's Center have had several staff changes. In July we welcomed two new Graduate Assistants to the Project Safe team. **Kacy Silverstein**, although not really new to the Women's Center, is one of two new graduate Assistants hired to coordinate projects with Project Safe. In the past year, Kacy has coordinated Hand in Hand training seminars for faculty, staff and students and been very active in a number of programs at the Center. **Justin Montenegro** joins us as coordinator for MPAS (Men Promoting a Solution). This position is not new to Justin since it was he who first founded MPAS four years ago. Welcome Kacy and Justin!

In other staff news, this summer we said goodbye to a number of our colleagues. **Ginger Skaggs**, our intern from the Divinity School, has been active in Women's Center programming for years, even acting in the student production of the *Vagina Monologues* this past year. She is now hosting our program, Single Women in Ministry (see calendar on page 4) as she continues her graduate program in the Divinity School. **Pamela Williams**, who coordinated our Peer Education program, was graduated this spring with a degree in Women's Studies and is now working at Vanderbilt Medical Center. We also celebrated with her when she got married this past June. **Jinu Mathew** and **Jonathan Little**, our MPAS Coordinators for the past year, both have moved on to other positions. Jinu will be teaching high school AP Calculus in New York state. Jon spent the summer "Down Under" in Australia and New Zealand, but will be starting a Master's Program in Music and Film Production at MTSU this fall. We miss them all and wish them well.

In July Project Safe filed a no-cost extension that allowed us to keep **Sandra Harrell** on staff until the end of October. She will continue in her position as Co-Director of Project Safe. She has delayed her plans for law school in order to assist in fundraising and development plans to ensure Project Safe's continued success.

For those of you new to Vanderbilt, please see our website for other staff news, including our bios that will tell you WHO does WHAT here at the Women's Center.

www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Sistahs Reading Sistahs

When: Thursday, September 2 @ 12:00pm / 1:00pm (Meets the 1st Thursday)

Who: A book group for everyone interested in reading Black women authors. Come to this first day to meet each other and select books for the semester!

What: for more information, contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu

IN THE LIBRARY

BARBARA CLARKE
Women's Center Librarian



THE WOMEN'S CENTER LIBRARY IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE--CHECK IT OUT!

On the first floor of our building is the library, which includes over 3,500 books on women's issues, gender, feminism and allied topics. These books are listed on the Heard Library's online ACORN catalog. It is easy to identify the titles in our collection: the owning library is listed as VU-CENTERS and the location is given as WMCTR. The library is open whenever the Center is open (Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm).

With the exception of a small reference collection (books listed as WMCTR-REF) all our books can be checked out by students, staff, faculty and Vanderbilt alumni/ae. Books circulate for four weeks and may be renewed online or by calling the library at 343-4849. The library has over 100 videotapes and they also circulate for four weeks.

We subscribe to about 30 journals and we index most of these by subject. A printout of this index is available in a large binder on the table in the library. The journals don't circulate but articles may be photocopied for 5c per page. Students writing papers on women's issues or sociology often find these articles to be very useful. The journals in our collection include *Bust*; *Signs*; *Ms.*; *European Journal of Women's Studies*; *Women in Higher Education*; *Gender & Society*, and *Race, Gender & Class*.

Arranged in drawers by subject are thousands of newspaper and magazine clippings, as well as newsletters, pamphlets, and brochures on topics as diverse as osteoporosis, child care, female photographers, divorce, Toni Morrison, and Title IX and sports. This material doesn't circulate but may be photocopied in the library.

Among our many new books are:

Weitz, Rose. *Rapunzel's Daughters: What Women's Hair Tells Us about Women's Lives* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004)

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Random House, 2003)

Braude, Ann (ed.). *Transforming the Faiths of our Fathers: Women Who Changed American Religion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)

LeBesco, Kathleen. *Revolting Bodies? The Struggle to Redefine Fat Identity* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2004)

Elson, Jean. *Am I Still A Woman? Hysterectomy and Gender Identity* (Temple University Press, 2004)

Inness, Sherrie A. (ed.). *Action Chicks: New Images of Tough Women in Popular Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)

Vão, Linda Trinh; Sciachitano, Marian et al. (eds.). *Asian American Women: The Frontiers Reader* (University of Nebraska Press, 2004)

Morrissey, Belinda. *When Women Kill: Questions of Agency and Subjectivity* (Routledge, 2003)

m

Women's Center Presents Two Artists in a Mixed Media Exhibit

The Women's

Center presents two female emerging artists from Middle Tennessee in a Mixed Media Exhibit. Please join us for the **Opening and Reception, September 21 from 5:30-7:30pm**, featuring Artists **Laura Brookhart** and **Brooke Sisco**. This event is open to everyone. For more information, please contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu



Laura Brookhart describes herself as "primarily a colorist, appreciative of the abstract qualities of texture...drawn to architectural and graphic elements, the beauty found in decay and quirky scenes from daily life." She specializes in hand-colored photographs and photo-collages, "seek(ing) to blur the boundary between painting and photography." Her educa-

tion

includes an internship in fiberarts at Arrowmont School of Crafts and degrees in Art (Photography) and Interior Design.

Brooke Porter Sisco is an elementary school art teacher, "heavily influenced by children's art including vivid color, pattern and whimsical themes. Childhood images populate my paintings." Of her "dress" paintings she says, "[They] represent a human form that seems to be absent yet present. Are we housing a spirit inside of us or are we empty?" She believes we are "full of experiences that lead us to appreciate the world as a gift."





August/ September 2004 Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE AND POST

Unless otherwise indicated, all groups are open to all people and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's Campus.

For directions, please consult the map at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/contact.html>. For more information, please call 322-4843.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

The "F" Word and You

What: Come participate in a multimedia, interactive experience that will show how you can get informed, get connected, and get active at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.

Who: This program is open to everyone.

When: 9am-5pm

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact 322-4843.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Mixed Media Artist Opening and Reception with Laura Brookhart and Brooke Sisco

What: Come and meet local women artists at our gallery! A reception will be held.

Who: This event is open to everyone.

When: 5:30 - 7:30pm

For more information, please contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu

For directions to the center and info on parking, please go to www.vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter/contact

REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

TUESDAYS IN AUGUST

Creative Life Planning Group

What: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Open to everyone in the community and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone.

For more information, call 322-4843.

When: 12:00noon-1:00pm (Meets every Tuesday).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

Creative Writing Group

When: 5:30-7:00pm (Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays)

What: The Creative Writing Group is open to new members! We look forward to hearing your piece. No writing experience necessary. You can bring a piece or create one at the group.

Who: This group is free and open to everyone. It is led by Anna Sir who does writing instruction as well as facilitation of the group. For more information, contact annasir@bellsouth.net

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 AND SEPTEMBER 9

Vandy Moms

Who: Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Superheroes! Open to all mothers, partnered or

single.

What: A support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich.

When: 11:30-12:30pm (Meets the second and fourth Thursdays.)

To RSVP, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 1, 15, 22, 29

Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

Who: Specifically for Undergraduates (women and men), but open to all.

What: An undergraduate student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

When: 5:00-6:00pm (meets every Wednesday)

Contact emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu or katharyn.i.christian@vanderbilt.edu Or just come to a meeting!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Dissertation Writers Group

What/Who: This support group meets every three weeks from 3:45pm-5:00pm to provide female Ph.D. candidates with objective reactions and fresh perspectives, as well as a place to unwind during the dissertation writing process.

When: 3:45p -5:00pm (meets every three weeks)

Fall 2004 dates to meet are: 9/1, 9/22, 10/13, 10/27, 11/17, 12/8. For more information, contact rory.dicker@vanderbilt.edu

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

SWIM (Single Women in Ministry)

What: A time to join with other women in sisterhood for rejoicing, relating, and telling stories about being a single woman in ministry.

Who: If you are single, female, going into (or in) ministry, come to the women and ministry group. This conversation is free and open to women of the Vanderbilt and larger Nashville communities.

When: Meet at 6pm at Calypso Cafe on Elliston Place (meets monthly)
RSVP to Ginger Skaggs, at gingerskaggs@hotmail.com or Jodi McCullah at jodi.mccullah@vanderbilt.edu

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

T-BLAST (Transgendered women, Bi women, Lesbians, and Straight women Together)

When: 6:15pm-7:45pm (meets the 2nd Tues.)

Where: at the VU GLBT House (www.van-

August/September Calendar of Events

continued from page 4

derbilt.edu/glbtt)

What: This Month: *Straight but not Narrow, A Straight Conversation with Straight Allies.*

Straight allies are people who are supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Straight women are often openly supportive of individual friends and family who are LGBT or reach out to address LGBT issues in the larger community. Women who choose to be straight allies may also experience the process of coming out around their ally status or even discrimination from co-workers, family and friends. Please join us in some straight conversation with straight allies.

Who: This discussion group is free and open to all women. Co-Sponsored with the VU GLBT Office. For more information, contact jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu, melinda.brown@vanderbilt.edu, or patricia.k.gardner@vanderbilt.edu

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Book Group

When: 5:15pm-6:15pm (meets the second Monday)

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read.

The September 13 book is *Niagra Falls All Over Again* by Elizabeth McCracken.

For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bell-south.net or Carmen Gherman at cgggherman@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Herstory: Life as a tenured professor at Vanderbilt

What: Students will have the opportunity to hear and ask about the journeys of tenured women faculty at Vanderbilt. Questions that will be answered include: How did you get to where you are? Why did you go into this field? Is this everything you thought it would be? Would you advise us to do the same?

Who: This program is intended for graduate students or people thinking about becoming graduate students.

When and Where: 4:00 pm at the Black Cultural Center Co-sponsored with the Center for Teaching F2P2 programming. For more information, and to register go to www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/gradstudents/f2p2

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Women in Islam Series, first speaker: Irshad Manji

What: *Not My Father's Islam: Women as the Key to Reforming the Muslim World*

Women's rights are human rights. But in much of the Muslim world today, women suffer profound ill-treatment. Is there something inherent in Islam that opposes women's equality and democracy itself? Or is it all in the interpretation? More importantly, what can be done to improve the lives of women and therefore of children and men in the Islamic world? Irshad Manji is a Muslim woman, an acclaimed journalist and a best-selling author.

Who: This program is open to everyone.

When and Where: 4:10pm, Furman 114

Co-Sponsored by Women's Studies, Carpenter Program for Gender & Sexuality, and Project Dialogue.
For more information, contact alison.piepmeyer@vanderbilt.edu

NEW!!!! THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Graduate Women Support Group

What/Who: If you are a woman in graduate school, you are going to need some support! Come and gather with others who are experiencing what you are for dialogue, best practice sharing, and support. (meets every three weeks)

Contact vanessa.k.valdes@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

When: 4-5:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All About Women! Vanderbilt Medical Center is a sponsor of a free 2 day spa experience!

Where: Nashville Convention Center

When: Friday, August 27 from 9am-9pm

Saturday, August 28 from 9am-6pm

The following things are FREE: admission, health screenings, spa classes, professional services, giveaways, entertainment, childcare, parking and more! For more info, go to www.allaboutwomentn.org, e-mail allaboutwomentn@aol.com, or call 1-800-815-2550.

Nashville NOW (National Organization for Women) will have their meeting this month on **Monday, August 23 @ 7:00pm** at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center behind Scarritt Bennett. The meeting is free and open to members, guests, and those seeking more information. For more info, please contact CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com.

Save The Date!

SEPTEMBER 10, 11, 12: HAND IN HAND TRAINING

What/Who: Hand in Hand is a group of students, staff and faculty trained to help students make informed decisions about services and options available to them related to sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. Training lasts 16 hours and teaches how to support and connect survivors to resources on and off-campus. Space is limited, so contact christina.a.baulch@vanderbilt.edu to register!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH: PEER EDUCATION TRAINING, 10AM-6PM

What: The Peer Educators of Project Safe are a group of students who create seminars/discussion formats and travel to campus groups and residence halls to promote discussion and encourage understanding about the impact of violence against women.

Who: If you have participated in the Hand in Hand training OR you are taking or have taken the Gender and Violence Class OR you have taken two Women's Studies courses, you are eligible to become a peer educator. Contact sarah.e.gwaltney@vanderbilt.edu to register!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's News and Kudos

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2004, 9:00AM-4:00PM

Surviving Double Jeopardy: Domestic Violence and Addiction

Join us for an interactive workshop that addresses the correlation and integrated methods of working with individuals experiencing domestic violence and substance abuse issues. This training is targeted toward domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse and social service providers who are interested in learning more about the dynamics of this correlation. Clinical certification hours pending approval from the Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee. Facilitators include Kathy Benson, LADC, NCAC II, Owner of Pleiades Clinical Consulting Group and Robyn Minton, MA, Director, YWCA Domestic Violence Center.

Cost: \$40.00 (limited scholarships available)

Location: 1608 Woodmont Blvd. Nashville, TN 37215
615.269.9922

To register, call or email Emily Nourse, 615.242.1070 ext. 106
emily.nourse@ywcanaashville.com

Women's VU Seeking Writers!

Every month we strive to make this newsletter one that will inspire, inform and empower our readers. If you have an interest (and expertise) in gender issues, health issues concerning women, etc., we'd love to hear from you! If you've ever wanted to be published, here's your chance! Contact editor misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367 and share your ideas, stories, comments.

Kudos go out to Vanderbilt women's golf coach, **Martha Richards Freitag**, who was named National Coach of the Year by *Golfweek*, one of the sport's major publications. Freitag, in her fourth year coaching here at Vanderbilt, led the Commodores to their best season in program history. She coached Vanderbilt to five tournament wins, including the Southeastern Conference Championship and the NCAA Central Region. The Commodores finished fifth at the NCAA Championships. Freitag has been selected as SEC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

New Child Restraint Law In Effect

A new TN State law went into effect this past July 1st that requires all children over the age of 4 and over 40 pounds be placed in a booster seat until they are 9 years old and five feet tall. This new law was passed last year based on the data and evidence collected by hospitals, including Vanderbilt, that showed that serious injuries could be prevented with the proper child safety restraints in place. Failure to properly restrain a child in a vehicle is considered a primary offense--any law enforcement officer can and will cite a driver when a violation is observed.

Please keep your children safe!



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Women's VU is sent free, on request, to all Vanderbilt students and to faculty and staff at a campus address. Subscriptions are available to off-campus readers for a suggested donation of \$10 per year. Please include your check, payable to Vanderbilt University, with your subscription.

- Please send my free subscription to a campus address. (Student subscriptions are free to *any* address.)
- Please send my subscription to an off-campus address. Donation is enclosed.
- Please correct my name on your mailing list.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

Student (specify school & year) _____

Staff Faculty Administrator Other

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