Howdy!

I hope you will enjoy the first edition of The 12th Woman! Our goal for this newsletter is to keep you abreast of the latest happenings at the Women’s Resource Center and our programs. In these pages, you will find information about our presentations, programs, library, and upcoming events.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, we undertook a study of other SEC Women’s Resource Centers to determine how we could create the best possible Center for the women on this campus. Because of that study, we are adding several new programs this year, including: Breastfeeding Welcomed Here, Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention (SHARP) Classes, Elect Her: Campus Women Win, and $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshops.

You will find articles about each of these programs in our newsletter. I believe that these programs, along with our continuing programs, will help all Aggie Women to reach their full potential. If you ever have any questions or concerns about our Center, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Wheeler
Program Coordinator
Women’s Resource Center
Office of the Dean of Student Life
Did you know that there have only been 3 female Student Body Presidents in the 50 years since women have been enrolled at A&M and none in the past 10 years? Did you know that only 21% of Student Government Association Senator positions are held by women even though women make up 47% of the student body? When we became aware of these facts, we decided to take action. Over the past two months, the Women’s Resource Center has worked with Student Activities Staff to assemble an application for Texas A&M University to become an Elect Her: Campus Women Win Workshop site. We are very excited to announce that on October 4th, Texas A&M was selected by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start to be one of the 12 new schools to host an Elect Her: Campus Women Win Workshop this academic year. Elect Her is a 4.5 hour workshop designed to encourage and train women to run for student government and future political office. While we are only in the beginning stages of planning our workshop, we anticipate that our workshop will be held in mid to late January 2014. This program will be free of charge and limited to 50 participants. To find out more information, visit our webpage.

$Start$mart Salary Negotiation Workshops

Last month, the U.S. Census Bureau released new data on the gender wage gap. Unfortunately, there really wasn’t anything new to report. In 2012, white women earned $0.77 for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. This number is even lower for racial minorities including African American, Native Americans, and Latina women. That number has stayed the same for the last decade.

Research by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) shows that just one year after graduation, women earn just 82 percent of what their male counterparts earn, and the gender wage gap widens over the next 10 years. A woman graduating today will earn roughly $1 million less over the course of her career than her male counterpart will earn because of this gap.

In order to help eliminate that gap for Aggie Women, the Women’s Resource Center has teamed up with the Career Center, AAUW, and the WAGE Project to offer $Start$mart Salary Negotiation Workshops. These workshops teach women who are preparing to start their careers how to benchmark and negotiate for fair and equitable salaries upon graduation. Each workshop gives participants resources for benchmarking reasonable salaries and benefits, negotiation skills that teach women how to aim high and be realistic including practice through role play, and knowing your bottom line by developing a bare-bones budget to pay rent, buy groceries, repay student loans, and other basic expenses.

Our first class will be held on Saturday, November 16th from 10 am to 3 pm. The class is completely free of charge and includes a segment on Professional Branding and is limited to 40 participants. For more information and to register for the class, please visit our webpage.
Breastfeeding Welcomed Here!

In order to better serve the women of the Texas A&M community, the Women’s Resource Center has worked to identify all available spaces on campus where nursing mothers can go to comfortably breastfeed. Locations were determined based on the university’s standard administrative procedure regarding workplace lactation, which states that the space must be private, have a place for the nursing mother to sit and a flat surface other than the floor. This space cannot be a bathroom. For more information regarding the university’s standard administrative procedure for workplace lactation, visit http://studentlife.tamu.edu/wrc.breastfeeding

The Women’s Resource Center has identified five locations that may be used for lactation purposes:

1. Liberal Arts and Arts & Humanities Building 111

The lactation room located on the first floor of the Liberal Arts and Arts & Humanities building in Room 111 next to a Family Restroom (Room 112). The lactation room is unlocked and open during building hours 7:30 AM – 10:30 PM Monday – Friday, and is closed on the weekends.

2. ADVANCE Center Blocker 529

Blocker 529 is part of the Texas A&M ADVANCE Center, and is available for lactation purposes or for individuals who need a space to be with their children while on campus. This room is available Monday – Friday from 8 AM – 5 PM with prior notification. To access this room please contact Linda Stelly in the ADVANCE Center at 979-845-1235.

3. Mitchell Physics Building 104

Family Room #106, Lactation Room #104, Restroom #105 are all connected in one big room. To access this room please contact Cheryl Picone in Room #131 at 979-458-7900. Room is available through key check-out only.

4. General Services Complex 271

Lactation Room 271 is located on the second floor of the General Services Complex. To access this room, go to the reception desk in Suite 2601 to obtain an access card and directions to the room from the receptionist. For more information or questions regarding this space, contact Kay Lightsey at 979-845-4211.

5. Teague B014A

To access Teague B014A, go to the CIS Help Desk counter in the Teague Building to obtain an access card and directions to the room. For more information or questions regarding this space, contact Jay McAbee at 458-1152.

These locations are listed on our website, and will be published on the Aggie Map (maps.tamu.edu) shortly!

Each of these locations has been provided a placard similar to the one below to help mothers locate available lactation space.

Love Is Not Violence

Relationship violence is all too common and takes many forms, yet is an issue that is often not spoken about in public because is considered complicated and uncomfortable. Women aged 16-24 experience the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence in the United States (US Department of Justice, 1997). In 2011, there were 1,707 females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents submitted to the FBI (http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf)

Further, this report shows us that sixteen times as many females were murdered by a male they knew (1,509 victims) than were killed by male strangers (92 victims) which shows us that violence against women is primarily partner violence. In 2012, 114 Texas Women were killed by an intimate partner.
Studies tell us that students are the most at risk for relationship violence because they are not as experienced in relationships and may not see the early signs of a dangerous and unhealthy relationship as these signs can be subtle. Relationship violence is about power and control and can include stalking and verbal, economic, electronic, emotional, mental, and physical abuse.

The following may be early warning signs of an unhealthy relationship that may escalate to violence: extreme jealousy, controlling behavior, moving quickly, unpredictable mood swings, alcohol and drug use, explosive anger, isolates you from friends and family, uses force during an argument, shows hypersensitivity, believes in rigid sex roles, blames others for their own problems and feelings, shows cruelty towards animals or children, and threatens violence.

College students may face a variety of challenges to access services that can help them leave an abusive relationship such as feeling trapped by social groups and the closed environment community of a campus and feeling isolated from personal support networks (this is especially true for students from a different state or country). Additionally, administrators may not always respond appropriately because they do not understand the scope of the problem as some students may not define their experience as abuse. Other obstacles may be financial, fear of parents finding out and removing the student from school, fear of the assailant, and the prevalence of social networking that provides easy access for perpetrators to control their partners. If you have a friend who is in an abusive relationship try to understand if they struggle with ending the relationship. Tell your friend if you are concerned that they are in danger, or tell someone who can help: http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu

Relationship violence is too serious an issue for us to continue being silent. The Women’s Resource Center hosts the Silent Witness Project to raise awareness on campus about relationship violence. The Silent Witness project is a traveling memorial to victims and survivors of partner violence. Each red-wooden silhouette represents someone who has died from relationship violence and shares their story. The witnesses are meant to spark conversation and put a name and a story to this often hidden problem. To find out more about the Silent Witness and four aggies who have been murdered due to partner violence, visit the exhibit at the following locations, or see our website:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evans Library</td>
<td>Oct 21st – Oct 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Building</td>
<td>Oct 28th – Nov 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heep Center</td>
<td>Nov 11th – Nov 15th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American Association of University Women and What it Means to You

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is an 130 year old organization dedicated to empowering women and improving the lives of women and their families. As a part of their mission, they conduct research into gender equity issues in education and the workplace; provide campus leadership programs; provide programs which encourage young women to pursue careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields; have public policy and legal advocacy programs to promote women’s equality; provide educational funding for women; and respond to the global development needs of women.

It is through the AAUW that we were able to secure programs such as $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshops and Elect Her: Campus Women Win. Because Texas A&M University is a University Partner of AAUW, all of our students are eligible for a free e-Student Affiliate Membership to AAUW. Joining provides you access to resources such as fellowships, awards, and grants; networking and mentoring opportunities; and information relevant to issues impacting women via their research, magazine, and action briefings.

If you are interested in joining, visit www.aauw.org/membership. Once there, select the option to join as a student. From that point, you will have the option of joining for free.
Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention (SHARP) Classes

Nationally, the period of time between the beginning of the fall semester and Thanksgiving is called the Red Zone. It is called the Red Zone because there are more sexual assaults on U.S. college campuses during this time than at any other time during the school year. First year women are especially vulnerable to sexual assault during this time. This is due to several reasons such as learning to fit into a new environment and being uncomfortable with the surroundings, trying new activities with increased independence and less supervision.

Sexual assault is an act of power and control, it is not about sex. Alcohol is the most common used drug to facilitate a sexual assault. On campus, the Women’s Resource Center offers self-defense classes in partnership with the University Police Department and the Brazos County Sheriff’s Office. These classes, called Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention (SHARP), teach female participants how the body reacts in high stress situations, techniques to deal with sexual harassment, pressure points, how to break a variety of holds, and allows women to test out self-defense skills using full force. If you are interested in participating in a SHARP class send an e-mail to soniam@studentlife.tamu.edu to be placed on the Spring Waitlist. If you are interested in reducing power based personal violence on Texas A&M’s campus, consider becoming a Student Anti-Violence Educator. This peer education group is trained on issues of stalking, abusive relationships, and sexual assault and gives presentations to other students, and supports sexual assault prevention programming.
Did You Know?

To close each newsletter, we will ask a few questions to test your knowledge of the history of women at Texas A&M, and of those whose contributions have helped women succeed.

Q: Who was the only woman to be the president of Texas A&M University?

A: Dr. Elsa Murano

In 2008, Murano became the first woman and first Hispanic-American to be appointed President of Texas A&M University. Previously, Murano served as Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Murano returned to teaching and research as a professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science in June 2009. She joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1995 as an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science and was named Associate Director of the Center for Food Safety where she served until 2001. She then became Under Secretary for Food Safety for the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President George W. Bush. Murano received her B.S. in Biological Sciences from Florida International University and her master’s and Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from Iowa State University.

Q: Who was the first female Student Body President?

A: Ms. Brooke Leslie Rollins

Ms. Rollins graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Development. While at Texas A&M, Rollins was the first woman to serve as Student Body President in the 1994-1995 Academic Year and was recognized as the top graduate based on academics, leadership, and service. In 2007, Rollins was invited back to campus as the first woman Aggie Muster speaker. Rollins served as Governor Rick Perry’s Deputy General Counsel, and later as his Policy Director and is currently the President and CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

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The 12th Woman is put together by our dedicated staff at the Women’s Resource Center to highlight special news and current events relevant to Aggie women and their supporters.

https://www.facebook.com/TAMUWRC
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Meet the WRC Staff!

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