

Women's Times

A Joint Publication of Women's Studies and the President's Commission on the Status of Women.
SUMMER 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 245 attend annual spring conference
- Women students receive awards for research and leadership
- 700 attend Take Back the Night march
- In Sisterhood Exhibit and Panel remembers women activities

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“Educate and Inspire”: PCSW Spring Conference

By Dr. Tracy Lassiter, Co-Chair, PCSW

Women’s hearts are some of their strongest assets, so good heart health should be a priority for women and everyone they tend. That was the take-away message of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women at IUPUI’s 6th Annual Conference, held May 29, 2013 at the KCAC. Annually, the conference draws women from IUPUI and the surrounding community together for a day of learning, leadership, and fun. This year’s conference offered 245 attendees a keynote address by a nationally known speaker and a wide variety of sessions on topics that promote health and wellness and assist in the development of empowering skills from the use of new technologies to financial planning and methods of leading with compassion.

IUPUI President Michael Driscoll attended the conference and addressed the lunchtime crowd, thanking attendees for all the support they provided to the university, community, and their families, and urging them to care for themselves as well. Keynote speaker Amy Heintz, whose own experience with a heart condition was very nearly fatal to her, reinforced the president’s message. Heintz noted in her address that heart disease remains women’s number one killer, so a focus on healthy living and heart check-ups is crucial.

Attendees enjoy the conference, noting what they like is the variety of workshops, the camaraderie, and the chance to learn from and meet others. As conference organizer Diane Traves remarks, it is “a day to hear about health topics and professional development.” Co-organizer Pauline Wells adds “I see how renewed and inspired the women are as they leave.” Shelly Lockard, from co-sponsor the Indiana Regional Medical Center, notes, “Spirit of Women is a proud sponsor of this event because it aligns with its mission to educate and inspire women to do what is best for their health.”



Fall Women's Welcome Reception

Dr. Maureen McHugh



McHugh speaks on the history of Women's Studies at IUP

The IUP Women's Commission, the Women's Studies Program, and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Women's Consortium host a reception each fall to honor women and to welcome all women students, faculty and staff members back to campus. On October 3, 2012, attendees filled the Blue Room for this popular event. This year they were also pleased to welcome IUP's new President, Dr. Michael Driscoll, and his wife Rebecca.

Remarks were made by Dr. Lingyan Yang, new Director of Women's Studies and Dr. Maureen McHugh, Co-Chair of the President's Commission and the founding director of Women's Studies at IUP. Ms. Malinda Levis, Co-Chair of Commission and representing the PASSHE Women's Consortium also spoke as did President Driscoll. After the remarks participants took the opportunity to meet the new president and his wife and socialize, network and plan to promote women's community, advancement and scholarship at IUP.

Women's Leadership Awards

By Ms. Alisia Drew

Each year IUP recognizes outstanding female graduate and undergraduate students with a Women's Leadership Award. Award recipients are selected for their outstanding campus leadership experience, academic excellence, and community achievements. On Wednesday, May 1, 2013, the Center for Health and Well-Being hosted a reception to honor the Women's Leadership Award nominees and to announce the recipients of this prestigious award. At a ceremony attended by dignitaries including Dr. Michael Driscoll, University President, and Dr. Rhonda Luckey, Vice President for Student Affairs, the awards were announced. Kathryn Bussell, Danielle Lewis, and Kristen Shafer were recipients of the Undergraduate Women's Leadership Award. Kathryn Bussell and Kristen Shafer received a scholarship to attend the Annual PASSHE Women's Leadership Institute.

The Leadership Institute for Undergraduate Women provides a forum to nurture the leadership potential for women students. It creates an experience that empowers women as leaders, challenges women to realize their full potential as leadership, and connects women with other women who are committed to social change.



President Driscoll and Dr. Luckey present Undergraduate Women's Leadership Award to Kathryn Bussell.



Award Winner Lauren Mough standing next to the IUP Women's Leadership Award Tree designed by IUP Fine Arts Student Danna Rzecznik

Danielle Lewis received a scholarship to attend the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Institute at Chatham University. The NEW Leadership program is an intensive, week-long, residential leadership and public policy institute designed to educate and empower young women for future political participation and leadership. The program addresses the under-representation of women in the political arena by focusing on the role of women in politics and policy making in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Maria Bodenschatz was the recipient of the Graduate Women's Leadership Award. Lauren Mough was the recipient of the Senior Women's Leadership Award.

This event would not be possible without the support of the Women's Leadership Award sponsors-- Presidents Commission on the Status of Women and the PASSHE Women's Consortium. Dr. Tracy Lassiter, Dr. Theresa McDevitt, and Dr. Lingyan Yang also contributed to the success of this event by serving as members of the recipient selection committee.

Feminist Fridays

By Dr. Tracy Lassiter

Given how busy most of us are, we don't always make time just to talk about feminist issues that might concern us. This past spring semester, the Women's Commission – inspired by member and IUP's Associate Director for Student Life, Malinda Levis (pictured) -decided to do something about it. At Levis's suggestion, it hosted "Feminist Friday" lunches on the third Thursday of each month.

Each session included a brief, 10-15 minute discussion by a presenter, such as Dr. Rhonda Luckey talking about Title IX policies on campus or Dr. Theresa McDevitt sharing information about famous women academics and leaders throughout IUP's history. We also discussed the Steubenville rape case and other current events related to women and girls. The subsequent conversation often spun from those initial presentations into other areas. Importantly, men were encouraged and invited to Feminist Fridays to share their own perspective, and one father who participated said he did so in order to be informed on issues impacting his own young daughters. Indeed, even IUP President Michael Driscoll attended our March gathering. The Commission hopes to resume the conversation via the Feminist Friday series when the 2013-14 academic year begins. The lunches are held in the Oak Room; while attendees must pay for their own lunch, the great conversation and inspiration comes free! We look forward to having you join us soon.



Women in Mathematics, Science and Technology

On April 1, 2013, College of Natural Science and Mathematics held its annual Women in Mathematics, Science, and Technology symposium on the first floor of Weyandt Hall, highlighting scholarly accomplishments of

female undergraduate/graduate students and faculty. The following eight students received awards for posters:

- First Place (Graduate): Emily Bellush (Biology) – Dr. Jeff Larkin, faculty supervisor
- Second Place (Graduate): Melissa Medina (Biology) – Dr. Joe Townsend, faculty supervisor
- First Place (Undergraduate): Joy Kiefer (Geoscience) – Dr. John Taylor, faculty supervisor
- Second Place (Undergraduate): Kellie Kerner (Geoscience) – Dr. Katie Farnsworth, faculty supervisor



- Second Place (Undergraduate): Rebecca Beadling (Chemistry) – Dr. Charles Lake, faculty supervisor
- Third Place (Undergraduate): Breeanne Mintmier (Chemistry) – Dr. John Ford, faculty supervisor
- Third Place (Undergraduate): Samantha Eichelberger (Biology) – Dr. Cuong Diep, faculty supervisor
- Math Education Work Sample award: Megan Labant – Dr. Edel Reilly, faculty supervisor. Best Computational Science Poster (S-COAM Grant): Breeanna Mintmier (Chemistry) – Dr. John Ford, faculty supervisor.

In Sisterhood Exhibit and Panel



February 2 through March 15, 2013, IUP University Museum hosted exhibits designed to promote a deeper understanding of the contributions of western Pennsylvania women to the women's and civil rights movement in the 1960s and 1970s. *In Sisterhood* featured photos of activist women and artifacts documenting their efforts. "Bridge Builders," was a related exhibit which examined the connections between the civil rights and women's movements in Pittsburgh and included a video documentary. The exhibit was accompanied by a *Six O'clock Series* panel program featuring four activist women associated with the exhibits: Patricia Ulbrich, the director and producer of *In Sisterhood*, Barbara Hafer, Maureen McHugh, Ph.D and Ann L. Begler. Women's Studies, the President's Commission on the Status of Women and many other offices and departments on campus provided support for the exhibits and panel.

Change is Possible

By: Professor Jennifer M. Woolston

This spring semester, I had the privilege of teaching a section of WMST200. The twenty-five students in my class worked very hard for fifteen weeks. Everyone read, considered, and responded to a variety of readings on topics ranging from the gendering of children's toys, to the male gaze in advertising, body image issues, famous feminists, rape and domestic abuse, beauty pageants, reproductive rights, black and Chicana issues, and more. We even read some theory from Mulvey, Cixous, and Anzaldúa! Each session, students discussed these readings via completing worksheets, viewing media, engaging in small group work, and/or participating in class-wide discussions. Class was always lively and dynamic.



For the final class projects, students completed collages and detailed response papers concerning an issue (discussed in class) where they would like to see more education, activism, and change in society. The topics students chose to write about ranged from eradicating the male gaze, to promoting bodily autonomy, to envisioning an end to domestic violence, to providing more rights for LGBT folks, and to constructing a true definition of feminism, etc. Students shared their final paper topics, along with quotes they selected pertaining to gender issues, during our final activity session. It was eye opening to see how these people were digesting the course material, and awe-inspiring to note how they wanted to see society end oppression in various forms. Our class was diverse in terms of gender, race, and religious affiliations, and the student's ideas were similarly unique and wide-ranging. This class actively engaged with a plethora of ideas, and it was truly an honor for me to facilitate and contribute to that learning.

LGBTQIA Visibility at IUP

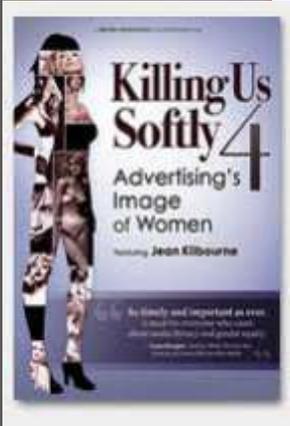
By Jarhed Szalkowski

“Who are those people handing out condoms and candy in the Oak Grove?” I overheard students ask as I was handing out those said condoms and candy in the Oak Grove. Let me answer that question: they were the IUP's LGBT Commission and they were promoting LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex or Asexual) Visibility Week. Over the last several years, the LGBTQIA population has become more visible and recognizable at IUP, and that is a good thing.



The IUP community at large is becoming more aware of its own LGBTQIA community and culture. The LGBT Commission, Pride Alliance, Safe Zone, and many other groups and individuals are increasing the visibility of this community at IUP, in Indiana, and throughout the local region. This simultaneously diversifies the campus climate and encourages solidarity throughout the community. Efforts to reach out to people who do not understand, are fearful, or are even hateful, still need to occur. We cannot let intolerance diminish the LGBTQIA presence on campus. IUP ought to be a welcoming and diverse place for all students, staff, faculty, and administrators; this is done through collaboration and encouragement from within the community itself. Taking a stand and making your community more visible is one way to collaborate and foster encouragement; it says, “It's okay to be who you are.”

Kilbourne Keynote at WC Conference



Kilbourne to speak at
Consortium
Conference this fall.

If you have ever taken a Women's Studies class, it is likely that you have read an article or watched a film by Dr. Jean Kilbourne. Kilbourne's pioneering investigations and publications on images of women in advertising launched a movement to promote media literacy as a way to prevent these problems.

If you are interested in seeing her in person, you will want to attend the PASSHE Women's Conference on September 20-21, 2013 at Mansfield University of PA. Kilbourne will be the keynote speaker. The theme of the conference this year is "Woman as Hero" The conference which draws feminist professors, administrators, staff members and students from the PASSHE and beyond is a wonderful opportunity for networking and development. In addition to Kilbourne's presentation, the conference will include panel discussions, experiential workshops, traditional paper presentations, and round table discussions. There will also be poster sessions with student presenters. For more information on the conference, go to: <http://www2.mansfield.edu/pcsw/events.cfm>

Take Back the Night March

By Alisia Drew

On Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 700 students, staff, faculty, and Indiana residents of all genders gathered to participate in this year's Take Back the Night March. This march, organized by IUP's Haven Project, is held in an effort to end violence and send the message that victims and survivors will no longer remain fearful and secluded in their homes. This worldwide initiative has a long and proud history of supporting survivors while trying to prevent violence. The march began at 8:00 p.m. in the middle of the De-laney Courtyard.

Dr. Michael A. Driscoll, IUP President and Mr. David J. Hickton- U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, kicked off the march by addressing the large crowd of supporters. After their inspirational remarks, the march began with many participants carrying anti-violence signs and chanting anti-violence and empowerment messages. They marched through the IUP campus calling for an end to domestic violence.

The march was followed by a Speak Out in the PNC Room at the KCAC. The Speak Out was attended by 300 people. At his gathering survivors of violence had the opportunity to share their stories or provide support to others, while publically affirming their transition from victim to survivor.



700 attend this year's Take
Back the Night March

Leadership Institute

IUP and the other universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, depend upon the talents and dedication of its many female professional employees. In recognition of their vital contribution, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Women's Consortium held its second bi-annual Leadership Institute for Professional & Staff Employees. The three-day event took place from June 26 to 28, 2013, at the Toftrees Resort in State College, PA. The theme of the institute was Feminist Leadership and Cultural Competence.



Two IUP women were selected to attend. They were Ms. Lynnann Mocek of the Provost's Office, and Ms. Melanie Muscatello from Financial Aid. Both women found the experience productive and rewarding. Ms Mocek wondered what to expect and was pleased with the active, engaging, and practical sessions which aided her "in understanding how I interact and yes, lead." As a result of attending the conference, she would like to be involved in a campus wide pilot mentoring program for new staff employees. She was highly enthusiastic in her support of the institute, saying "Kudos go to Maryrose Wilson [the Institute's organizer] for her diligence and hard work within the Woman's Consortium in making this conference available to a key constituency within PASSHE." She also offered her thanks to IUP, and the conference sponsor PSECU, for the opportunity to participate in the "educational and uplifting conference." Ms. Muscatello echoed Ms. Mocek's sentiments. She recalled that the Institute was "a wonderful opportunity to meet a variety of women from campuses across the state" and "a great networking opportunity and learning experience!" Her favorite sessions included: Strategies to Affect Social Justice for Women, PACE Palette, Politically Correct to Professional Respect, and Conflict Resolution." She concluded that she learned valuable information which she plans to incorporate into her current position and future leadership positions at IUP.

Through the Oak Grove Exhibit and Lecture Feature IUP Women

Indiana Normal School, College, Teachers College, College and University, were always places where women led and learned. There they were empowered and encouraged to develop to their full potential, contributing much to the success of this institution and the world beyond. This was very apparent in the *Through the Oak Grove: A History of Indiana University of Pennsylvania* University Museum Exhibit. It was open to the public from September 1 to October 27, 2012. The exhibit featured female administrators, such as the school's first Preceptress, Jane Leonard, female faculty such as Jane McElhaney, [pictured] who started the Art Department, and students, alumni and members of the Board of Trustees.

In connection with the exhibit a number of lectures were offered including "A Woman's History of IUP" by Professor Rhonda Yeager of the Art Department and Dr. Theresa McDevitt of the University libraries.



On The Grounds of "First Cottage", Home of Miss McElhaney

MELUS

By Dr. Lingyan Yang, Director of Women's Studies



V.P. Bill Spiedel, President Driscoll, Dr. Lingyan Yang and Dean Asamoah at MELUS Conference.

The MELUS (Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S) conference was held on Mar. 14-17, 2013 in Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. Dr. Lingyan Yang organized this important conference. President Michael Driscoll, Vice President Bill Spiedel, and Dean Yaw Asamoah, Dean of College of Humanities & Social Sciences, attended the Plenary Lunch on Mar. 15, 2013. President Driscoll made a warm, presidential and inviting speech to welcome all conference attendants. About 230-240 American and international faculty, graduate students, and guests presented/attended the conference.

The conference was one of the most successful in MELUS' 39-year history. About 45-48 IUP leaders, faculty, and graduate students attended the conference; many were women sharing research on ethnic studies. Hosting the MELUS conference promotes IUP's national and international scholarly reputation and visibility, and enhances social awareness on multicultural diversity and gender equity. Conference sponsors include MELUS, IUP President's Office, Provost's Office, Vice President's Office of Finance & Administration, Office of International Education, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of Graduate Studies & Research, English Dept., Graduate English Program in Literature and Criticism, Women's Studies, the Women's Commission, and the Latin American Studies Program. All of the extraordinary and warm support is deeply appreciated.

CSL Promotes T-Shirts with Positive Messages

By Allison Shumar and Briana Newstrom



Shumar and Newstrom examine IUP shirts.

Homecoming t-shirts are a longstanding tradition at IUP, but over the last few years some student-produced Homecoming shirts have included inappropriate messages that depict IUP students and IUP in a negative light. In response to this situation, over the past year, the Center for Student Life (CSL) has reached out to faculty, classes, and students to discuss this issue. Students provided useful feedback on their perspective on the t-shirt issue and suggestions on what they thought would be a good approach to combat the issue. A graduate student conducted surveys and benchmarked practices at peer institutions about other Homecoming t-shirt initiatives. While the First Amendment allows any individual to express his or her opinions, ideas, and perspectives, the CSL would love to see positive Homecoming shirts that show IUP students care not only about their own personal image, but the image of all IUP students. The CSL has been working on securing funding from various campus partners to promote positive messages directly related to the partner's department or area. Graduate student Briana Newstrom is working with a group of students to implement the a t-shirt contest, which will allow students to vote on winners of categories like "Best Positive Women's Message" and an overall shirt that could be carried in our Co-Op store.

Editorial assistance for this issue of *Women's Times* was provided by Ryan Mance and Junene Taylor.