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MISSION
The mission of the Harvard College Women’s Center is to promote gender equity by raising awareness of women’s and gender issues, developing women’s leadership, and celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire. In alignment with these goals, we centralize resources and offer student-focused programming to strengthen individuals and student organizations. The Women’s Center is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students that encourages dialogue and diversity.
The Harvard College Women’s Center continues to be a home for students with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to explore gender and address issues that face all who identify under the umbrella of womanhood. In past years, the Center has served as a microphone for undergraduates, allowing those dedicated to the advancement of women to thrive in their advocacy. This year was no different. While we focused on mastering our current programs and initiatives, Center staff found innovative ways to expand the reach and impact of current programming.

The 2017-2018 academic year was a time for the Center to advance our current programming through assessment, development and partnership. Thought leadership and diligent planning from our interns allows the Center to work towards its mission of raising awareness of women and gender issues. We conducted surveys at the beginning and mid-year of our internship program to collect data on how we can better align the opportunity with the needs of our interns. Through our surveys we found that students wanted more ways to showcase the professional skills they garnered while working at the Women’s Center. In response to this request, we have allowed students to contribute to this annual report by sharing their reflections on the internship and their insights about the programming they have implemented throughout the year.

Program development is a cornerstone to how we advance our mission. It is always a goal to explore new and innovative ways to broaden the reach of the Women’s Center. This year we developed a Smart Cookies and WiSTea initiative. These served not only as an addendum to our WiSTEM Mentorship program (for mentors and mentees) but also allowed the conversation of women in STEM to be brought to the greater College community. Smart Cookies and WiSTea were hosted throughout the year to foster STEM related conversations which connected undergraduate students to professors and professionals in the STEM fields, respectively.

The success of the Women’s Center is rooted in partnership. In the spring of 2018 our students launched a partnership between the Women of Color Collective (WoCC) and the various Houses on Harvard’s campus. WoCC is a student-lead initiative that was created to assist in the College’s efforts to increase belonging. Its mission is to provide a space in which students can come together to discuss the intersections of race, gender, and culture and create community among women. This WoCC House pilot program created a discussion space that allowed for the intersection of identity to be named and their societal complications to be addressed. These conversations were thriving at the Houses and expanded the reach of Women’s Center programming.

The assessment, development and partnership work that we have done this year has only been possible through the commitment of our interns, the engagement of our alumnae, and the support of the Harvard community. On behalf of the Women’s Center staff, I thank you for your partnership as we continue to walk in our purpose to challenge, motivate, and inspire.

Naisha Bradley
Director, Harvard College Women’s Center
Meet Our Interns

HCWC Internship Program

Working at the Women’s Center is an opportunity for Harvard College undergraduates to garner the professional skills necessary to advance in the workplace while influencing their campus community. This internship allows students to highlight issues of gender by planning events and programming. These programs include a weekly dialogue series, the annual Women's Week events, as well as the design and implementation of Gender 101 workshops to campus student groups and administrative offices. Through communications, education, and programming teams, interns are given opportunities to influence their campus community and highlight ideas that are important to them and the community. The efforts of our interns allow the Women's Center to continuously produce mission-driven work as we seek to honor those who challenge, motivate, and inspire.

Senior Reflections

Jessica Jin ’18

What can I say about the Women’s Center that hasn’t already been said? Being an intern at the Harvard College Women’s Center has been a truly transformative experience. It has been a place of profound personal, professional, and intellectual growth. I have had more deep conversations about gender, feminism, and life with my fellow interns than I can count. I have made the Women’s Center my topic of study in more Sociology papers at Harvard than I can count. And I have eaten more cookies in the HCWC lounge than I can count. Only after I became a part of the HCWC community did I begin to feel like Harvard was my home, and that I had a sense of ownership over my time here. Not only has the Women’s Center made me feel that I and other students here can have an impact on Harvard’s campus, but also it has led me to meet some of the most brilliant, hilarious, empathetic people—students and staff alike. I have so much love for the community that HCWC provides at Harvard, and thankful that I have been able to be a part of it.

Gaby Germanos ’18

When I began working at the Women’s Center, I saw it as a job -- an opportunity for professional growth, a place to develop important skills for the workplace. Of course, the Women’s Center internship is a job, a job that has pushed me to grow and develop skills that will serve me for the rest of my professional life. As an intern, I have learned how to manage social media platforms, create graphics, and expand the Center’s reach both on- and off-campus; I have learned how to collaborate closely with student organizations and offices to which I had no personal connection; and I have learned how to direct a year-long project, overseeing a committee and a dozen events. I do not take these experiences for granted, recognizing that I am going out into the workforce with more professional and project management skills than many students beyond the Center have the opportunity to develop.

But the Women’s Center internship experience is so much more than a job. It is a safe space, where you can feel free to be yourself while also having your beliefs challenged and worldview expanded. It is a support system, where you will be motivated with hugs, cookies, and motivational words. Most importantly, it is a constant source of inspiration, from the incredible work that Naisha, Bridget, and Heidi do every day to keep the Center thriving, to the countless ways that my fellow interns engage with their communities on issues of social justice.

I am forever grateful for this experience, for this community, for this family.

From top left: Gaby Germanos ’18, Jessica Jin ’18, Juliet Lewis ’18, Courtney Chkwara ’18, Gabi Thorne ’18, Sally Yi ’18, Kara Chyung ’19, Kate Gehling ’19, Jenna Gray ’19, Brandi Moore ’19, Julie Chung ’20, Tajrean Rahman ’20
Let’s Talk Series

FALL 2017 EVENTS

How to Look Corporate AF* (and fashionable) 09.27.17
A conversation about how to present yourself professionally while keeping your personal sense of style alive.

First Year Mixer 10.04.17
A chance for the Class of ’21 to visit the Women’s Center to enjoy s’mores dip and meet some of our staff and interns!

Exploring Intersections of Identity 10.11.17
Interactive workshop examining ways to navigate identities that hold both privilege and marginalization.

Let’s Watch: MOANA 10.18.17
HCWC, the Harvard Pop Culture Club, and the Harvard University Hawai’i Club screening of Disney’s MOANA.

Healthy Relationships at Harvard 10.25.17
A panel discussion on healthy relationships at Harvard featuring panelists from SHARC and CARE.

Crafting Community: Enjoying Arts and Snacks with Fellow WOC 11.1.17
Community building event where students learned how to make scrunchies and headbands and decorated foam boards.

Dinner with Dr. Durba Mitra 11.15.17
Professor Mitra discussed her work, her career, and her identity.

How Are You, Really: Self-Care and Reflection Through Journaling 11.29.17
A night of reflection and discussion on how journaling can be an effective self-care practice, and DIY journal decoration.

SPRING 2018 EVENTS

Healthy Relationships at Harvard 02.14.18
A panel discussion featuring panelists from Harvard CARE and Harvard SHARC.

Food and Fascinating Conversation with Dr. Angela Allan 02.21.18
Dr. Allan studies the relationships between literature, culture and pop culture, media, and history.

Happily Never After? A Study Break on Queer Women in the Media 03.21.18
The HCWC, SHADE, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, and the BGLTQ Business Society present a show featuring queer women that shows a positive plot line and craft making.

Be a Man: How Stereotypes of Masculinity Affect Men of Color 03.28.18
A panel and discussion to discuss narratives of masculinity in students of color and their effect on campus life.

Beyond the Streets: Doing Activism with a Disability 04.03.18
A discussion on tactics for navigating activism spaces with a disability.

Class at Harvard: A Talk about Socioeconomic Status on Campus 04.11.18
A discussion on how we talk about class background at Harvard. In the process, we created a collaborative resource about navigating class conversations.

Fall Spotlight

HOW TO LOOK CORPORATE AF* *AND FASHIONABLE

By fall, job recruiting has already kicked off with many junior and senior women looking to enter the professional world. This event was intended to help those students to prepare for a corporate environment by providing tips and advice on how to present yourself professionally as well as how to conduct oneself professionally in the workplace. “How to Look Corporate AF*” was the first event in the Women’s Center’s “Let’s Talk!” series. Co-sponsored with the Office of Career Services and Harvard Smart Woman Securities, this event consisted of a panel discussion about corporate attire and professionalism, self-confidence in the workplace, and salary negotiation. Students left with tangible knowledge of how to dress appropriately for the professional world and a better sense of the differences between campus life and being in the working world. Afterwards students left feeling less intimidated by the prospect of entering a corporate environment. Attendance was very high (the room was very full), and attendees submitted several questions of their own. We had a feedback form for participants and received feedback and suggestions from 13 of the participants. Overall, the average rating for the experience of participants had at the event was a 4.7 out of 5. Also, we received 9 questions from participants indicating that they were very invested in the conversation. The most successful aspect was that students were able to get valuable feedback and tips on how to conduct themselves in the corporate world. Students seem to be very engaged and interested in the conversation. They seemed to enjoy listening to the panelists and learned from what the panelists had to share. The Women’s Center has hosted similar events in the past, and as this is a topic of continued interest, will continue to offer these kinds of professional resources for students as they consider their growth into the professional world beyond their college experience.

-Kara Chyung ’19 and Gals Thorne ’18, interns
Spring Spotlight

The purpose of this Let’s Talk was to host a candid conversation on masculinity’s effect on men in communities of color. We discussed the many ways in which masculinity manifests itself within one’s home community and different spaces at Harvard. Opportunities to discuss masculinity through the eyes of men of color on campus are few and far between. The conversation was particularly relevant given conversations regarding male-dominatedness of campus culture from classrooms to extracurriculars and social life.

Well exceeding anticipated participation (we moved furniture and still ran out of standing room!), we were also effective at getting people who have never or do not often come to the Women’s Center. Active outreach efforts towards men’s organizations and individuals were instrumental in recruiting participants, including members of unrecognized single-gender organizations. It was inspiring to watch as participants wrestled with the ideas of masculinity, masculinity of color, and how for participants, including members of unrecognized single-gender organizations. It was inspiring to watch as participants wrestled with the ideas of masculinity, masculinity of color, and how for participants with friends, romantic partners, and communities in and outside the Women’s Center. One participant reported continuing the conversation with his girlfriend and discussing whether or not some of his behavior was “toxic,” “masculine,” or “toxic and masculine.”

Another participant shared that she would really love to see a similar event on femininities of color with the women of color groups on campus. Other themes that came up in questions/feedback were interracial dating, sexual assault in communities of color, and personal accountability. A potential follow-up event could focus on the question “What structures do you have in place to hold you and other men accountable to reducing toxic masculinity?” Overall this conversation was long overdue and should continue as our campus continues to grapple with issues around gender expression.

In its eleventh year, Women’s Week continues to make a significant impact on campus in fostering dialogue about women’s and gender issues. The mission of Women’s Week is to sponsor student-led events that celebrate women’s achievements, promote dialogue about women’s and gender issues, and highlight the varied and intersectional experiences of women at Harvard and beyond.

Women’s Week 2018 tackled the topic of “breaking barriers,” encouraging participants to think about the barriers that women are breaking and those that have yet to be broken, both at Harvard and beyond. Through 12 events organized by 19 student groups, Women’s Week was truly a community-wide endeavor, demonstrating the shared passion of individuals, student organizations, faculty members, and administrators for empowering people to make change in their lives and in their communities.

This year’s events covered a diversity of topics, including women in STEM, feminism and religion, reproductive justice, and more, with formats ranging from interactive workshops to intimate discussions, to various forms of artistic expression. The week opened with an event hosted by the Women’s Cabinet, titled “A Year in Review with Harvard Faculty.” At a panel led by WGS professor, Dr. Leena Akhtar, and Romances Languages & Literature professor, Dr. María Luisa Parra-Velasco, students heard and shared perspectives on the increased focus on sexual assault and immigration issues in the United States. Midway into the week, the Diversity Peer Educators, the Women of Color Collective, and the Harvard Foundation presented “Gender@Harvard,” a photo series documenting the diverse experiences of women on campus. The week concluded with “Nevertheless She Persisted,” an open mic hosted by the Seneca and Black C.A.S.T to celebrate the talents of women artists on campus. Attendees were treated to performances such as standup comedy, short stories, and original music, all intended to entertain and inspire.

Over five days of programming, Women’s Week reached 387 students, uniting women on campus and increasing awareness of women’s shared and intersectional experiences. By providing students with tools and motivation to combat gender discrimination and oppression in its many forms, Women’s Week empowered students not only to challenge the obstacles women face every day, but also to break the barriers they experience in their own lives.

-Gabi Germanos ‘18, intern
WiSTEM Mentorship Program

The mission of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (WiSTEM) Mentorship Program is to create and maintain an environment that fosters the growth and development of women students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics communities at Harvard University. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to help retain women in STEM fields and increase the number of women STEM concentrators who persist at Harvard by providing meaningful mentorship opportunities.

Each September, matches are formed between graduate student mentors and undergraduate mentees based on academic interests and professional goals. The WiSTEM Mentorship Program provides a valuable opportunity for undergraduate women to take advantage of the practical wisdom of graduate students as a source of information and inspiration. WiSTEM also provides graduate students the occasion to share thoughts about their careers.

This past year, the WiSTEM Mentorship Program enrolled 105 mentors and 92 mentees, with at least 30 participants identifying as first-generation college students and 28 students identifying as underrepresented racial or ethnic groups in STEM fields. The Kickoff WiSTEM Mentoring Orientation in October hosted over 100 participants to learn mentoring strategies and techniques. After the Kickoff, deliverables for WiSTEM mentoring matches include a mentoring agreement, midyear survey, and an end-of-year survey for optimization of mentoring Match-Ups and for maintenance of high-quality mentoring relationships. Additionally, monthly newsletters are sent out to participants to keep them updated on program events as well as other interesting events and opportunities across Harvard.

Both WiSTEM mentors and mentees benefit from networking with other members across the program besides their mentoring match, with approximately 60% of participants stating that WiSTEM has significantly increased their sense of belonging in the STEM community at Harvard. The program hosts a variety of events throughout the year for members to meet and network across disciplines.

The WiSTea program started in Fall 2017 allows participants to discuss a range of topics with each other and Harvard faculty in a casual setting. Additionally, the annual spring career panel dinner was a great way to network and discuss potential career paths for mentors and mentees alike. One WiSTEM participant commented, “I especially appreciated the diversity and representation of women from all different types of fields/career paths.” Another said, “specifically the career panel and words from advice from the panelists about creating strong mentoring relationships in undergraduate and graduate members to seek out these relationships and strengthen the ones I have.”

Overall this year saw the WiSTEM program strengthen in the relationships made and programming offered, and even included the inaugural WiSTEM Mentor of the Year Award given at the annual Harvard Women’s Leadership Awards ceremony. The impact is best summed up by one of our participants, that “Participating in WiSTEM was a great opportunity for Michelle and students to connect on a more personal level. Madeline Martinez-Pabon generously shared her story of immigrating to the US and starting with next to nothing in an effort to continue her education here. Her story of persistence in pursuing every opportunity she could muster reached students with the message that opportunities don’t come knocking, especially for folks without citizenship status, so you often have to get creative when you search them out. One undergraduate participant expressed how fortunate she felt to happen to attend the event when asked why she chose to participate: “[I attended] on a whim, I’m a computer science major and thought it’d be good to check it out. Well, I was blown away and felt like I was living in a dream listening to Madeline. I don’t think you can advertise an event by saying yup, you’ll probably be blown away. But it definitely happened to me.”

To supplement the WiSTEM Mentorship Program, the Women’s Center sponsors and coordinates the Smart Cookies series which are conversation with innovative women open to the entire Harvard Community. These events hold space for STEM-related conversations and are geared towards diversifying undergraduate women’s approach to their STEM concentrations. At these events we welcome accomplished Women in STEM who have been innovators in their fields to share their best practices, how they overcame challenges, and what pushed them to re-think success for women in STEM professions.

This year we were fortunate to host two amazing women: Dr. Michelle Thaller, Harvard alumna who serves as the deputy director for communications at NASA; and Madeline Martinez-Pabon, a software engineer at Dell who is involved in supporting the LatinX community’s engagement in STEM throughout Boston.

Michelle Thaller did not hold back in her talk about her experience at Harvard and her work at NASA with black holes, dark matter, and dark energy. The most important work NASA does in monitor climate change, even though they de-emphasize this in their reporting. Dr. Thaller discussed her difficulties studying at Harvard and being advised to give up on becoming an Astronomer by her mentor. She encouraged students that if they want to pursue STEM, “just go for it until they tell you you have to leave.” She also encouraged students to look for supportive mentors. Student participants were motivated by her words and commented that her experience was “so relatable.” A group of undergrads walked out of the talk with their TF and all talked about how they had a shared experience, “struggling in STEM courses feeling like we don’t belong, like we aren’t the right fit” and it was such a relief to hear someone talk about these issues so openly.” Before the main talk there was a private dinner in the STAHR Observatory, which was a great opportunity for Michelle and students to connect on a more personal level.

Madeline Martinez-Pabon generously shared her story of immigration to the US and starting with next to nothing in an effort to continue her education here. Her story of persistence in pursuing every opportunity she could muster reached students with the message that opportunities don’t come knocking, especially for folks without citizenship status, so you often have to get creative when you search them out. One undergraduate participant expressed how fortunate she felt to happen to attend the event when asked why she chose to participate: “I attended on a whim, I’m a computer science major and thought it’d be good to check it out. Well, I was blown away and felt like I was living in a dream listening to Madeline. I don’t think you can advertise an event by saying yup, you’ll probably be blown away. But it definitely happened to me.”
Celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Women's Leadership Awards, over 50 students, administrators, faculty and alumnae gathered at Pforzheimer House to enjoy a cocktail reception, dinner and stirring speeches from this year’s recipients. The annual celebration helps the HCWC realize our mission of honoring women who challenge, motivate, and inspire.

The Women’s Leadership Award is given to an outstanding senior each year in honor of their leadership for women on campus, in their communities and in the larger world. Our newest award, the WiSTEM Mentor of the Year, recognizes a dedicated mentor whose insight and advice has proven an invaluable source of support and inspiration for their mentee as they explore their academic and career options in STEM.

The Women’s Professional Award is presented to a prominent professional woman for outstanding contributions to her field. This year, 56 seniors were nominated for the Women’s Leadership Award and over 30 applied. Lornalai Kassab stood out among the strong pool of over thirty applicants. Her dedication to the Harvard community was evident in her work on campus as the president of the Society of Arab Students, and through her work as the conference director for Harvard Arab Weekend. She also dedicated her time in the Cambridge community, working at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, where she served as a supervisor, a case manager and an overnight volunteer. Lornalai’s leadership has been deeply felt on campus as she worked to build cultural understanding and find olive branches during times of disconnect.

21st Annual Women’s Leadership Awards

Shifting Perspectives on Policy
with Symone Sanders

The Harvard College Women’s Center welcomed the Harvard community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni to attend the second Peggy Schmertzler Leadership Lecture on Tuesday, March 27, in the Barker Center Thompson Room.

This lecture was sponsored in honor of Peggy Schmertzler for her determined and transformative leadership as she worked to advance equality for women at Harvard University. Peggy helped found the Committee for the Equality of Women at Harvard in 1988 and was the organization’s first president. She continued working until 2014 to promote the status of female students, faculty, and alumnae at Harvard University.

This year’s Peggy Schmertzler Leadership Lecture featured Symone Sanders, who spoke about Shifting Perspectives on Policy. CNN political commentator, strategist for Communications and Political Outreach at Priorities USA, and principal of the 360 Group LLC. She was the youngest person to serve as a national press secretary to a presidential candidate during her tenure with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ 2016 presidential campaign.

During her lecture Symone focused on the important role of factions within the Democratic Party, as well as communication platforms and the need to break down silos among voters.

...childhood, and left the audience with the remark, “What you have to remember is that you have to start somewhere. Everybody starts somewhere. Don’t be afraid to start. Be patient and weather the good and the bad. Make your mark. Plant your peach tree.”

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Community Outreach

In addition to the programs coordinated directly by the Women’s Center, we also engage in outreach to the general student population through our social media and several student-driven initiatives. The Women’s Center’s reach is extended beyond Canaday basement through our newsletter and popular Facebook page and by participation in activities outside the office, including holding open houses during first-year and junior parents’ weekends, hosting a table at the Opening Days Community Night (photo to the right) and the annual Student Activities Fair. Other special initiatives coordinated by our office include the Frosh Rep Program, Gender 101 Workshops, Women’s Cabinet, and Women of Color Collective.

First-Year Representatives

The First-Year Representatives (Frosh Rep) Program is designed for first-year students to help promote and raise the visibility of HCWC resources and events among other first-year students, act as a liaison between the HCWC and other first-years, and help the HCWC stay connected to dialogue in the freshmen class related to issues of gender. Each year HCWC interns recruit and train frosh reps in the beginning of the fall semester.

During the 2017-2018 academic year the Women’s Center recruited six outstanding frosh reps who met regularly throughout the year to discuss issues surrounding gender identity, as well as plan events. This year the Frosh Reps hosted two events including “Fake it ‘til you make it? Imposter Syndrome at Harvard,” and “INCOGNITO MODE: The Effects of Pornography on Campus Life” in the spring. Students joined frosh reps for a guided discussion on imposter syndrome and confidence in the classroom on November 30 of 2017. During this discussions students touched on the following questions: Still waiting for the admissions department to let you know your acceptance was a mistake? Feeling like finals might finally prove you didn’t deserve to go here? Spend a lot of time worrying you might be “found out”? Although specifically geared towards first-year students, the event was advertised and open to all students across campus. The event also drew students by providing baked goods and an opportunity for affirmation crafting.

On Friday, March 30th students gather at the Women’s Center at 6pm for a discussion about the effects of widespread viewing of pornography on sexual relations on campus. This event created a much-needed, albeit sensitive, space for students to discuss how pornography impacts them personally and as a community.

#WCW & Appreciations

“Our Woman Crush Wednesday (#WCW) campaign continued this year, celebrating women at Harvard and beyond who challenge, motivate, and inspire. We highlighted the work of 26 amazing women on our social media this academic year, including students, staff, faculty, and alumnae who were nominated by students. Our highly active Facebook page helped spread the word about these amazing women through repeatedly shared posts and almost 2000 followers.

These public shout outs are another way for the Women’s Center to appreciate the work of others, in addition to our weekly “appreciations.” As a staff we nominate individuals, student groups and offices that we think are doing great work in solidarity with our mission and send them physical certificates of appreciation in the mail. This year we sent approximately 100 appreciations across Harvard’s campus.

Gender101

Gender 101 is an interactive workshop facilitated by undergraduate interns that aims to build awareness regarding the diversity of gender identities on campus. Through presentation and discussion, we hope to build the capacity of individuals to recognize and respect all genders and provide tools and ideas for organizations to create more welcoming and inclusive environments. The HCWC facilitates this workshop to highlight the complexity of gender and advance dialogue about the agency people have regarding gender expression and identity. The discourse prompted from these workshops allows us to better understand the diversity that is included under the umbrella of womanhood. This year we facilitated 45 Gender 101 workshops and trained more than 500 members of the Harvard community, including working with the Undergraduate Council to pilot a workshop series in the first-year entryways.

“There was definitely an “aha” moment when the title was changed to (cis)gender privilege and I saw all of the things listed in that category differently” -2018 Gender 101 First-Year Participant

“Made me more reflective of how my daily assumptions are a product of extreme messaging” -2017 Gender 101 Participant
Women’s Cabinet

The Women’s Cabinet is a collaborative body of student leaders from women focused student organizations throughout Harvard College. The goal of the Women’s Cabinet is to gather information about women’s issues on campus. We work towards this goal by sharing best practices for organizational longevity, providing funding incentives for collaborative programming (only offered to recognized groups) and increasing dialogue amongst women students to build bridges of understanding across areas of interest.

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR

The 2017-2018 academic year was an exciting one for the Women’s Cabinet. This year, we had three specific focus areas: leadership, community, and access. The focus area of leadership aimed to provide development, skills, and resources to Cabinet members, the community focus area hoped to allow Cabinet members to form connections with other student groups and leaders, and the access focus area sought to provide Cabinet members with access to administrators and faculty.

We kicked off the year with a Title IX/OSAPR workshop during our first meeting, allowing students to ask questions about the College’s Title IX policy in an open and comfortable setting. We continued with the theme of highlighting women’s issues on campus with a panel featuring women undergraduate leaders within prominent student organizations, such as the Undergraduate Council, the Crimson, and the Harvard College Consulting Group. The Undergraduate Council (UC) Women’s Caucus was established in the fall of 2017, which also resulted in a new relationship between the Women’s Cabinet and the UC. The presence of the UC in Women’s Cabinet has provided Cabinet members to form connections with other student groups and leaders, and the access focus area sought to provide Cabinet members with access to administrators and faculty.

This year marked the beginning of WoCC’s House pilot program, which implemented a series of student-run social events in the undergraduate Houses. Two staff interns worked with eleven undergraduate WoCC Ambassadors, who spanned across all four House neighborhoods on campus. They met twice per semester to plan three social events in the Radcliffe Quadrangle, River, and River-Central neighborhoods. The programming kicked off with a movie night in Currier House, featured the film Treasure: From Tragedy to Trans Justice, Mapping a Detroit Story. Next, Ambassadors hosted “Different Stories. One Voice,” an open mic night for women of color in Mather House, co-sponsored with Speak Out Loud. Students shared poems, short stories, excerpts from longer books, and general experiences in an engaging night of warmth and community. Lastly, in the spring, Ambassadors co-sponsored with Latinas Unidas and Asian American Women’s Association to host a celebratory “WoCC Spring Soirée.”

This event took place in Adams House, featuring musical performances by women of color, handmade mocktail drinks, and a photo booth. WoCC Ambassadors noted the importance of bringing inclusive social life to their undergraduate House communities. One Ambassador described how WoCC will serve to benefit transitions between Yard and House life, writing, “WoCC will be a perfect place to involve the incoming sophomore class into Adams and make sure they know that house life is a place where they can be comfortable being who they are, no matter their race, gender, sexual orientation or how they choose to express.” Ambassadors also stressed the benefit of WoCC beyond the women of color community to support diversity and inclusion initiatives at large, writing, “WoCC is important to house communities because it can help connect women of color with each other in a supportive network, but also provide a space for discussion with people who are not women of color, and to give a voice to issues faced by women of color.”

Overall, WoCC fulfilled its goals to bring inclusive social events to undergraduate House life, and it will continue to ensure that women of color have spaces to embrace their identity in the next year.

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Kira Chyung ’19, intern

Women of Color Collective

The mission of the Women of Color Collective (WoCC) is to provide a space in which women of color can come together to discuss the intersections of race, gender, and culture; discuss how this interplay further complicated by other facets of identity; and create solidarity between women of color. Our vision is that through the Collective, women of color, whether they belong in an affinity group or not, will feel like they have a space in the Women’s Center and in the College.

The spring semester was similarly active, starting with our Women’s Week event “A Year in Review.” The event featured Professor Leena Akhtar and Professor Maria Luisa Parra-Velasco, who discussed some prominent political issues of 2017, such as sexual assault and immigration. The event fostered great discussion and allowed students to engage with faculty members on an individual level. Capitalizing on our collaboration with the UC Women’s Caucus, the Women’s Cabinet also co-sponsored a town hall entitled “Power Dynamics in Higher Education” in light of the revelations about Jorge Dominguez. Featuring members from the Harvard faculty as well as Dr. Jay Harris, Dean of Undergraduate Education, the event provided a space for students to voice their concerns about power dynamics within the university.

The last meeting of the year we met with Dr. Danielle Allen, professor in the Government department and co-chair of the Presidential Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging, and Dr. Roland Davis, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion. The event highlighted diversity and inclusion issues that student organizations face, as well as questions about accountability to facilitating progress on campus issues of diversity and inclusion.

This year also saw increased use of the Women’s Cabinet mailing list. The email list is available to all Women’s Cabinet members to use to publicize their events, and members forwarded information about events almost weekly during the spring semester, from seeking co-sponsoring for Denim Day to choose events for women in the Graduate Student Union. Overall, it was a great year that laid the groundwork for exciting collaborations and future events!

- Julie Chang ’19, intern
Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture

During the College’s Opening Days orientation for first-year students, the Harvard College Women’s Center hosts the Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture. The mission of the lecture is to expose students to a senior female faculty member doing innovative and exciting work that will invigorate them for what lies ahead in their time at Harvard. In doing so, we honor the legacy of Ann Radcliffe and similar pioneers of women’s education in Harvard and Radcliffe history. In September 2017, the HCWC welcomed Sarah Lewis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture and African and African American Studies. Lewis’ talk, *Vision and Justice: Why Images Matter for Race, Ethnicity, and American Citizenship*, explored the understudied historic roots and contemporary outgrowth of this crucial function of visual literacy for justice at inflection points in the contestation for citizenship and in America.

A.R.T. Grants

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund (ART/WCCF) was created in the pioneering, independent spirit of Ann Radcliffe, who, in 1643, established the first scholarship fund for Harvard College and for whom Radcliffe College was named two-and-a-half centuries later. The ART/WCCF is primarily funded by the Houghton Endowment, which was established by a gift from Maisie K. Houghton ’62 and James R. Houghton ’58. The grant review process is coordinated through the Women’s Cabinet and applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Women’s Cabinet, previous ART grant recipients, and HCWC interns. Grants are awarded to student groups to fund projects that support the visibility of women, encourage dialogue about gender, and promote women’s leadership at Harvard College.

The Harvard College Women’s Center awards an average of 35 ART/WCCF grants to student initiatives each academic year. Currently, we are able to fund about 45% of the requests we receive each year. This year we awarded 40 grants totaling $15,000 to 26 different student groups. Below is an example of the many remarkable projects we supported:

**Group: Latinas Unidas de Harvard College**

**Event: Latina Empowerment and Development Conference (LEAD) 2018**

Details: Since 2007, LEAD connects career-minded individuals with successful Latina role models who radiate positive ideals and represent the larger Latino community, and addresses the social, political, and economic issues facing Latinas today. LEAD promotes the development of a professional network, introduces mentoring opportunities, and inspires women to reaffirm their commitment to their profession and goals. The LEAD Conference 2018 theme was “Facing the Future - Together” featuring a keynote address by Rosie Rios ’87, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States and visiting scholar at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

Meet the HCWC Staff

**Naisha Bradley**
Director

Naisha Bradley serves as the Director of the Harvard College Women’s Center. Responsible for the leadership of the Center, Naisha’s portfolio includes strategic development, operational management, financial planning, program development, and alumni relations. In addition, Bradley works collaboratively with center affiliated student groups to advise them on strengthening visibility and to assist them in their creation, implementation and evaluation of an array of programming that raises awareness of women’s issues and promotes gender equality.

**Bridget Duffy**
Administrative Coordinator

Bridget Duffy handles the financial and logistical needs of the Women’s Center and works with the staff and interns to ensure that the Women’s Center runs smoothly. Bridget enjoys meeting the many students who come into the space and is constantly impressed by the variety of discussions that are a part of daily life at the Women’s Center. Bridget also serves as the Chair of the Spirit of the College Committee, which allows her and her committee to strengthen the sense of community and camaraderie amongst the various Harvard College departments and staff.

**Heidi Wickersham**
Program Manager

Heidi Wickersham serves as the Program Manager at the Harvard College Women’s Center. Heidi supports a breadth of programs including the Women’s Cabinet, Woman’s Week Programming, and the WISTEM Mentorship Program. Additionally, she creates the HCWC weekly newsletter and coordinates co-sponsorship with affiliated offices and student organizations to collaboratively broaden the reach of the Women’s Center in promoting gender equity.

**Nicole Black**
WISTEM Mentorship Program Coordinator

Nicole Black coordinates the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Mentorship Program supported by the Harvard College Women’s Center. Nicole matches mentors and mentees and provides ongoing support throughout the program, including organizing meet and greets and career panels. Nicole is currently pursuing a PhD in Bioengineering through the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

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Support Our Work

Your support allows the Women’s Center to carry out our mission and to enrich students’ experiences at Harvard. Nearly 60% of the Women’s Center’s annual budget comes from the support of alumni and friends in the form of endowed funds or individual gifts. Two different gift funds enable our work:

The Fund to Support the Harvard College Women’s Center supports current-year operations. This fund is used to augment educational programs and events, to sustain our two mentoring programs, and to support student internships, in addition to other needs.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust supports student projects and student organizations that promote women’s leadership on campus, raise women’s visibility, and address the significance of gender in society.

Opportunities to Support the Harvard College Women’s Center

$50.................. Covers the cost of keeping the Women’s Center open for student use for one night
$100................. Supports one small discussion-based event in the Women’s Center lounge
$250................. Supports one large panel discussion or film screening event on campus
$500................. Funds one leadership training or skill-building workshop for undergraduate students
$1,000.............. Covers the kick-off event for participants in our Women in STEM Mentorship Program
$2,000.............. Supports one undergraduate student internship at the HCWC for one year
$5,000.............. Covers the cost of our annual Women’s Week celebration in March
$7,500.............. Supports the Women’s Leadership Awards Dinner and Celebration
$10,000............ Funds one full year of student-led programming at the HCWC
$15,000............ Covers 100% of student grant requests we receive for one academic year

To make a donation to the Harvard College Women’s Center, visit us online: http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/support or, fill out the slip below, cut it out, and mail it to us.

I want to support the important work of the Harvard College Women’s Center.

Enclosed is my contribution of $_____________. Please apply my donation to the following fund:

☐ Fund to Support the Harvard College Women’s Center (Note: “Fund #331400 - HCWC” in the memo line of your check.)
☐ Ann Radcliffe Trust (Please note “Fund #331402 - ART” in the memo line of your check.)

Name (please print): ____________________________ Class year/Affiliation: __________________

Address: ____________________________, City, State, Zip: ____________________________

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Faculty of Arts and Sciences
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