
Harvard College Women’s Center
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Harvard University
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.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Women’s Center completes its ninth year, Harvard College is embarking on a time of transformation. Dean Rakesh Khurana has highlighted intellectual, social, and personal transformation to be the key components of the college mission. The Women’s Center is evolving in alignment with this mission; designing programming that encourages students to collaborate with those who have differing identities and perspectives.

During this past year the HCWC’s vision was reframed to help position the Center as a nexus of thought and collaboration for issues related to women and gender. In the fall of 2015 we re-launched the Women’s Cabinet, a collaborative board of student leaders from women focused student organizations throughout the college. The goal of the cabinet is to unite the voices of women students on campus and serve as a microphone for women and gender issues while encouraging collaboration among student organizations.

In addition to re-launching the Women’s Cabinet, we created a discussion series to build community at the college. The HCWC’s Let’s Talk Series allows for students to highlight awareness about women’s experiences and gender issues. Over this year, we hosted student facilitators, practitioners, alumni, and faculty to discuss a variety of topics including the role gender plays when studying abroad, sexual consent, and how women can achieve political parity, to name a few. The Let’s Talk Series also served as a great opportunity to discuss life at and after Harvard and hear about the personal triumphs and professional challenges of alumnae.

The work we have accomplished this year was made possible through the ongoing efforts of our undergraduate interns, the engagement of alumnae, and the support of the Harvard College community. On behalf of the Center staff, we deeply appreciate your partnership as we continue to challenge, motivate, and inspire.

Warm regards,
Naisha Bradley
Director, Harvard College Women’s Center

Let’s Talk Series

FALL 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<td>9/28</td>
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Spring 2017

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LET’S TALK SERIES

The Let’s Talk Series is an initiative created to build the community at the college by establishing a regularly scheduled discourse allowing for students to highlight awareness about women’s experiences and gender issues.

Implemented by Harvard undergraduates, this series consists of student-led discussions, panels, interactive workshops and film screenings. Guest speakers from Harvard and beyond come to share their insights on women and gender issues in order to deepen the dialogue around gender equity and women’s advancement. Let’s Talk Series events were held every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00pm (fall) and 7:00-8:00pm (spring) in the Women’s Center.
In the fall of 2015 the Harvard College Women's Center launched our Let's Talk Series – an initiative created to build community at Harvard College while raising awareness about women and gender issues. The weekly programming was spearheaded by Women's Center undergraduate interns and highlighted an array of topics such as the erasure of women of color’s voices in the classroom, women in governance, sexual consent, dating at Harvard, women in the dramatic arts, Black feminism and hip-hop, and modern day feminism.

The series began with our, "How is Life at Harvard" event, a candid conversation between Harvard undergraduates about the best way to build community in order to navigate Harvard successfully.

The success of this event sparked a need to bring back Harvard alums to discuss their lives after Harvard highlighting the trials and triumphs of their professional work. This series also enriched connections between faculty and students in our “Food in Fascinating Conversation” event with Maria Luisa Parra, PhD, a Spanish Senior Preceptor in the department of Romance Languages and Literatures. The Center hosted a dinner with Dr. Parra for her to share her journey as a professor and the professional challenges for women in her role.

The success of the Let's Talk Series in the fall led to an even more successful spring semester with events spilling out of our Center's space. Whether it was Dr. Phyllis Thompson, a lecturer in Women, Gender and Sexuality, presenting on feminism identity politics or Dr. Bettina Love, Nasir Jones Hip Hop Fellow, presenting on Black feminism and hip hop, students were noticeably engaged at the Let's Talk Series events.

On March 30, 2016 our “Dating at Harvard: Racial Preferences and Hierarchies” event drew a crowd of more than 55 students. This event, which discussed the intersectionality of race and gender and its effect on dating at Harvard College, was created and implemented by our interns and allowed undergraduates to provide insight on an issue that directly impacts their college life. This event was one of many which gave students a platform for ongoing discourse around women’s issues.

Throughout the year, hundreds of students attended Let's Talk Series events and the Women's Center looks forward to continuing this initiative as we widen the Center’s reach.
Our annual Swap Til U Drop is a charitable clothing exchange and brunch, where students and members of the Harvard College community exchange their gently used clothing, items, accessories, and dorm room decorations. Participants enjoyed a diverse musical playlist and delicious brunch ranging from cereal to crème brûlée, french toast, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, a variety of juices, and hot beverages. As expected, few attendees walked away with nothing, and many walked away with new additions to their wardrobe. The remaining donated items were taken to a local charity, Boomerangs, the Boston Area AIDS Action Committee’s resale shop.

The Women’s Center, along with Anita Hill, J.D., senior advisor to the provost of Brandeis University and Professor of Social Policy, welcomed Dr. Harris-Perry to Harvard as she presented on the topic, "Intersections of Irrelevance: Violence Against Women's Intellect in a Knowledge Based Economy."

"The current knowledge economy limits women's work, leadership, and earning."

-Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry

Nearly 200 people gathered in Agassiz Theater to hear Dr. Harris-Perry, who also cited the example of the lecture’s namesake, projecting a picture of Anita Hill taken during her testimony at Clarence Thomas’ hearings before the U.S. Senate in 1991. The Senate approved Thomas’ nomination for the Supreme Court despite Hill’s accusations that he had sexually harassed her when they both worked at the U.S. Department of Education. The picture was headlined: “What if they had taken her seriously?”
Over the past 17 years the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WISTEM) Mentorship Program has matched undergraduate women studying the STEM fields with graduate student women earning advanced degrees in those fields at Harvard University. These year-long relationships support students in exploring different academic paths, career possibilities, and graduate programs with the ultimate goal of strengthening the pipeline of women in STEM careers. In 2015-2016 WISTEM matched 46 undergraduate mentees with graduate student mentors.

In the end of year program survey, one of our mentees shared:

“During our meetings, we had wonderful long discussions about what grad school is like, my mentor’s research, the process of finding a lab, advice for my undergrad years, doing research, and much more.”

-Emily, Sophomore ’19

Mentors also shared their thoughts on the importance of the program:

“The HCWC WISTEM Mentorship Program has helped me do my part to ‘give forward’, in honor of those who mentored and inspired me during my undergraduate years”

-Mami (Medicine-Oculoplastic Surgery)

“The HCWC WISTEM Mentorship Program has helped me improve my communication skills and become clearer about my own professional goals”

-Sonya (GSAS, Biological and Biomedical Sciences)

This year also marked the inaugural year of our WISTEM “Women in Innovation” Series. This discussion series is a collection of STEM related conversations geared towards diversifying undergraduate women's approach to their STEM concentrations. Throughout the year “Women in Innovation” welcomed nationally recognized women in STEM who are 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's inaugural series included...

Renewable energy professional Jacqueline Ashmore, PhD ’03, Engineering Program Manager at the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems in Boston, shared how she manages a multi-disciplinary program developing novel solar systems with low installation costs for the residential market, while also balancing motherhood, and her passion for STEM related service.

Women in Innovation Series

This electrifying panel featured Anne Margulies, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Harvard University [first woman CIO at Harvard], Mercé Crosas, Ph.D., Chief Data Science and Technology Officer, Harvard University, and Anjali Worah, Senior Manager, Office of the President and Provost Practice. The panel, moderated by Donna Tremonte, co-chair of Harvard’s Women in Technology group, discussed unexpected hurdles related to pursuing a career in STEM. Each panelist shared her perspectives on internships, post-graduation opportunities, and personal reflections on how their gender has influenced aspects of their career.
Each year in early March we kick off Harvard College Women’s Week in honor of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. Student organizations and university departments are invited to organize events highlighting women’s and gender issues. As a result, the entire campus spends the week celebrating and elevating women to the top of campus conversations.

This year’s theme, “Raising Our Voices”, was selected in light of the countless voices of women from all backgrounds who have been silenced throughout history. The 2016 Women’s Week Steering Committee (SteerComm), lead by Women’s Center Administrative Fellow Dr. Vincent Harris and Women’s Center interns Jasmine Fernandez ’16 and Courtney Okwara ’18, consisted of the following Harvard undergraduates: Gita Abhiraman ’18, Claire Dickson ’19, Derek Peng ’19, Camilla Suarez ’19, and Connie Zhao ’19. SteerComm selected 12 events, out of 25 submitted applications, to form Women’s Week. As a result of the collaboration of 22 student groups and university departments, each event took place over the course of six days, beginning on February 29, and ending on March 5, 2016. Women’s Week consisted of a unique and diverse set of events that gave undergraduate women the candid opportunity to be vulnerable, yet proudly comfortable of their identity and her-story.

During Women’s Week, we had a minimum of one event per day at various locations on Harvard’s campus. The event topics ranged from addressing racial disparities in STEM to exploring gendered movement in dance. One event, Why Women’s Health Matters, welcomed students of all genders and class years to a crowded Holden Chapel to discuss reproductive rights. Each year, the Women’s Center also does its own event or project for Women’s Week. This year’s event, When Systems Silence, engaged the campus in a critical dialogue around sexual assault within various institutions.

Overall, we achieved our goal of building multiple spaces of solidarity among women at Harvard College who have a stake in issues that challenge, motivate, and inspire anyone under the umbrella of womanhood. Women’s Week participants left hopeful and acknowledged the ways the College has undergone major changes (largely in response to student activism).
This year the HCWC re-launched the Women's Cabinet - a collaborative board of student leaders from women focused student organizations throughout the college. The goal of the cabinet is to unite the voices of women students on campus and encourage collaboration among student organizations. We work towards this goal by sharing best practices for organizational longevity, providing funding incentives for collaborative programming and increasing dialogue amongst women students to build bridges of understanding across areas of interest.

In the fall of 2016, the Women's Cabinet hosted a university-wide event, Job Negotiation Strategies for Women, led by Dr. Kessely Hong, a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). Hong’s interactive workshop provided the audience with a better understanding of the challenges facing women negotiators and Hong shared advice for strategies one can use to successfully negotiate.

In the spring, the Women's Cabinet hosted another university-wide event, Communicating Across the Gender Gap, led by Professor Sarah Wald, Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser to the Dean at HKS. Wald shared the various ways in which gender affects how we speak and interact with others, and she discussed strategies of effective communication. Both events were widely attended by several constituencies in the Harvard community including college students, graduate students, staff and alumni.

The 19th annual Harvard College Women’s Leadership Awards (WLA) ceremony was held in Loeb House on the Harvard Yard. Over 70 students, administrators, faculty, and alumnae gathered to enjoy a reception, dinner, and inspiring speeches from this year’s recipients. The annual celebration helps the Women’s Center realize our mission of celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire. The WLA 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. The Women’s Professional Achievement Award is also presented to a prominent professional woman for outstanding contributions to her field. Nominations for the undergraduate award are solicited in late fall each year. Nominees are then invited to submit an application for the award. A committee of faculty, staff and alumnae are convened by the Women’s Center to review the applications, select finalists for interviews, and choose a winner. This year, 62 seniors were nominated for the award. 27 students completed the application, and thus were considered for this prestigious honor.

This year’s WLA winner, Jasmine Ariana Fernandez ’16 (pictured top-1), was selected for her outstanding advocacy for the inclusion of first generation students at Harvard College. Jasmine realized that her experience as a first generation student was not unique. To combat these challenges and create community for students like herself, Jasmine founded and became the inaugural President of the First Generation Student Union. Jasmine led a visibility campaign during Visit Days and developed a “First-Gen Freshman Welcome” event for 120 first year students during college orientation week. This program has been adopted by the college and formally incorporated into the Freshman Dean’s Event Calendar. Jasmine’s leadership has provided Harvard with a better understanding of the challenges that first generation students face within an Ivy league institution.

This year’s Professional Award winner, Professor Nikki Giovanni, is a poet, actor and activist. She has written more than two-dozen books, including volumes of poetry, illustrated children’s books, and collections of essays. Her early writings were inspired from the civil rights moment and like that movement, her work has changed the fabric of our society - prompting us to face the mistakes of our past and discuss difficult issues to ensure a brighter future.

In addition to, our Women’s Leadership and Professional Award winners, the Women’s Center also honored high school seniors Meggie Noel (pictured top-R) and Kylie Webster-Cazeau (not pictured) who, in January 2016, began a social media campaign to discuss racism in the Boston Public Schools. As the president and an active member of the Black Leaders Aspiring for Change and Knowledge student organization at Boston Latin School, Noel and Webster-Cazeau took to YouTube to call current students and alums to action. This call brought to surface a tense racial climate at Boston Latin School and highlighted student’s feelings of exclusion and tokenism. #Black4BLS is now a movement that has garnered support and shown impact outside of the classroom. As a result, there are now plans to implement system-wide training to combat these issues. These two young women are shining examples of the future of women’s leadership in Boston and beyond.

This year’s WLA winner, Jasmine Ariana Fernandez ’16

Meggie Noel, Boston Latin School ’16

Nikki Giovanni

2016 Women’s Leadership Award

2016 Women’s Professional Achievement Award
Gender 101

Gender 101 is an interactive workshop 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 nuance of gender and advance dialogue about the agency people have regarding gender expression and identity. The discourse prompted from this workshop allows us to better understand the diversity that is included under the umbrella of womanhood. This year we facilitated over 25 Gender 101 workshops and trained more than 400 members of the Harvard community, including nurse practitioners at Harvard University Health Services and members of multiple final clubs.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund (ART/WCCF)

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. The ART/WCCF was primarily funded by the Houghton Endowment, which was established by a gift from Maisie K. Houghton ’62 and James R. Houghton ’58. Grant applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Harvard community, including nurse practitioners at Harvard University Health Services and members of multiple final clubs.

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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 the 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.

Vincent T. Harris, PhD
Administrative Fellow

Dr. Vincent T. Harris serves as an administrator in the office to assist the Director of the Harvard College Women's Center in developing, implementing and assessing center programming and center supported events pertaining to women's issues. Dr. Harris also advises and supports students, and student programs, manages special projects to promote the growth and development of women students and is responsible for administering all aspects of the mentorship program, and representing the WISTEM program at campus events.

Entela Nako
WISTEM Mentor Program Coordinator

Entela Nako is the Women in Science Technology, Engineering and Math (WISTEM) Mentor Program Coordinator. Entela matches undergraduate women in STEM concentrations with female graduate student mentors in the STEM Fields as part of an effort to bolster the retention rates of women in STEM based careers. With support from the Center staff, Entela is responsible for administering all aspects of the mentorship program, and representing the WISTEM program at campus events.

WHO WE ARE...HCWC STAFF

Intern Spotlight

Brianna Suslovic
Class of 2016, Winthrop House

As I enter my final semester as a Harvard College undergraduate, I have been reflecting on the campus spaces that feel the most like home to me. The Women’s Center is one of those spaces. I am in my third year as an undergraduate intern at the HCWC and I could not be more grateful for the opportunities and community that this internship has provided me. The intern cohort has given me a sense of community like no other, as I find myself in the company of other students with a passion for gender justice, inclusivity, and diversity. Additionally, the support from our HCWC staff is unbelievable—I have never worked with adults who are so keen to mentor and encourage me in my pursuits on and off the job. Bridget, Naisha, and Vincent are committed to the personal and professional growth of each of the interns, and this commitment is reflected in our daily work.

As an HCWC intern, I have met feminist theorist Cherrie Moraga, recording artist Janelle Monae, and actress Laverne Cox. I have coordinated events featuring Radcliffe College alumnae and their stories of a gender-segregated Harvard. I have connected with other campus leaders who are committed to making space for conversations about gender equity at Harvard. I have developed event planning skills, social media knowledge, and communication abilities that will be invaluable to me in my future career. I cannot begin to express how grateful I feel for the Women’s Center and its events, opportunities, community and space. Most of my growth as an undergraduate has happened in Canaday B basement, surrounded by a diverse and loving community of Women’s Center friends.

-Brianna
S Y S U P P O R T O U R W O R K

T h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r N e e d s y o u r S u p p o r t !

Y o u r s u p p o r t a l l o w s t h e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r t o c a r r y o u t o u r m i s s i o n a n d t o e n r i c h s t u d e n t s ' e x p e r i e n c e s a t H a r v a r d . N e a r l y 6 0 % o f t h e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r ' s a n n u a l b u d g e t c o m e s f r o m t h e s u p p o r t o f a l u m n i a n d f r i e n d s i n t h e f o r m o f e n d o w e d f u n d s o r i n d i v i d u a l g i f t s . T w o d i f f e r e n t g i f t f u n d s e n a b l e o u r w o r k :

- T h e F u n d t o S u p p o r t t h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r s u p p o r t s c u r r e n t - y e a r o p e r a t i o n s . T h i s f u n d i s u s e d t o a u g m e n t e d u c a t i o n a l p r o g r a m s a n d e v e n t s , t o s u s t a i n o u r t w o m e t a l o r n e t h o r o g r a m s , a n d t o s u p p o r t s t u d e n t i n t e r n s h i p s , i n a d d i t i o n t o o t h e r n e e d s .

- T h e A n n R a d c l i f f e T r u s t s u p p o r t s s t u d e n t p r o j e c t s a n d s t u d e n t o r g a n i z a t i o n s t h a t p r o m o t e w o m e n ' s l e a d e r s h i p o n c a m p u s , r a i s e w o m e n ' s v i s i b i l i t y , a n d a d d r e s s t h e s i g n i f i c a n c e o f g e n d e r i n s o c i e t y .

O p p o r t u n i t i e s t o S u p p o r t t h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r

- $50..................... C o v e r s t h e c o s t o f k e e p i n g t h e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r o p e n f o r s t u d e n t u s e f o r o n e n i g h t
- $100................... S u p p o r t s o n e s m a l l d i s c u s s i o n - b a s e d e v e n t i n t h e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r l o u n g e
- $250................... S u p p o r t s o n e l a r g e p a n e l d i s c u s s i o n o r f i l m s c r e e n i n g e v e n t o n c a m p u s
- $500.................. F u n d s o n e l e a d e r s h i p t r a i n i n g o r s k i l l - b u i l d i n g w o r k s h o p f o r u n d e r g r a d u a t e s t u d e n t s
- $1,000.............. C o v e r s t h e c o s t o f t h e k i c k - o f f e v e n t f o r a l l p a r t i c i p a n t s i n o n e o f o u r m e t a l o r n e t h o r o g r a m s
- $2,000............. S u p p o r t s o n e u n d e r g r a d u a t e s t u d e n t i n t e r n s h i p a t t h e H C W C f o r o n e y e a r
- $5,000.............. C o v e r s t h e c o s t o f o u r a n n u a l W o m e n ' s W e e k c e l e b r a t i o n i n M a r c h
- $7,500.......... S u p p o r t s t h e W o m e n ' s L e a d e r s h i p A w a r d s D i n n e r a n d C e l e b r a t i o n
- $10,000....... F u n d s o n e f u l l y y e a r o f s t u d e n t - l e d p r o g r a m m i n g a t t h e H C W C
- $15,000........ C o v e r s 1 0 0 % o f s t u d e n t g r a n t r e q u e s t s w e r e c e i v e f o r o n e a c a d e m i c y e a r

T o m a k e a d o n a t i o n t o t h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r , v i s i t u s o n l i n e : h t t p : / / h c w c . f a s . h a r v a r d . e d u / s u p p o r t o r , c u t t h i s p a g e a t t h e p e r f o r a t i o n , f i l l i t i n , a n d m a i l i t t o t h e a d d r e s s o n t h e r e v e r s e s i d e .

I w a n t t o s u p p o r t t h e i m p o r t a n t w o r k o f t h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r .

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R a d c l i f f e a l u m n a e f o r m e d t h e C o m m i t t e e f o r t h e E q u a l i t y o f W o m e n ( C E W H ) a t H a r v a r d i n 1 9 8 8 . T h e s e a l u m n a e e n g a g e d U n i v e r s i t y a d m i n i s t r a t i o n , f a c u l t y , a n d s t u d e n t s w i t h i s s u e s d i r e c t l y i m p a c t i n g w o m e n a t H a r v a r d . W h e t h e r i t w a s i n c r e a s i n g t h e n u m b e r o f t e n u r e d f a c u l t y t h r o u g h t h e e s t a b l i s h m e n t o f t h e P r e - T e n u r e L a d d e r F a c u l t y M e t a l o r n e t h i n i t i a t i v e , a d d r e s s i n g s e x u a l a s s a u l t , o r d e e p e n i n g w o m e n ' s s t u d i e s , C E W H c h a m p i o n e d w o m e n ' s c h o r e t s a t H a r v a r d t h r o u g h o u t t h e i t s 2 6 - y e a r h i s t o r y , C E W H f o r m a l l y d i s s o l v e d i n 2 0 1 4 a n d d o n a t e d i t s r e m a i n i n g f u n d s t o t h e H a r v a r d C o l l e g e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r t o s u p p o r t n a r l y f i v e y e a r s o f p r o g r a m m i n g . T h e W o m e n ' s C e n t e r i s d e e p l y t h a n k f u l f o r t h e c o n s i s t e n t s u p p o r t o f C E W H .

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