# HCWC 2012-2013 Report

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For the most up-to-date information about the Women's Center, visit our website: [http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu](http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu)

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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 genders that encourages dialogue and diversity.
2012-13 was a very special year for me at the Harvard College Women’s Center. Our cohort of third-year senior interns, the Class of 2013, graduated in May. These five outstanding students formed the first cohort that I helped to hire back in the spring of 2010, and they are the first student interns with whom I have had the privilege of working from the beginning of their first semester as sophomores to the end of their final semester as seniors. Under their leadership, the Women’s Center truly flourished this year. Thanks to their efforts, we started conversations on gender through social media and blog posts, made new connections with partner offices such as the Office for BGLTQ (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Queer) Student Life and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, offered a new Gender 101 training to diverse student groups, shared best practices on how to be inclusive with other New England-area women’s center staff, and continued to offer mission-driven programming and events to diverse communities on campus.

I have been fortunate to witness each member of the Class of 2013 intern cohort grow and learn so much over the course of their time with the Women’s Center. I asked them to reflect on what they have gained during their three year internship, and I am pleased to share with you what they had to say, in their own words:

“The Women’s Center has provided me a space to find community, but it has been the space where my interest in feminist activism has been transformed from merely a hobby into my desired career. Although I would work at the Women’s Center even if I didn’t get paid, I think the added professional aspect was a huge part of this process. I was someone’s employee, someone’s co-worker, and someone’s resource. For the first time, an institution literally valued my observations about gender and oppression.” -Suzanna Bobadilla ‘13

“The most valuable aspect has been meeting people that challenge my thinking and challenge me to expand my perspective. I probably would never have interacted with many staff members during my time at college had I not worked here.” -Adrienne Slaughter ‘13

“When working in practice rather than theory, it isn’t enough to point out issues of oppression; it is necessary also to propose a creative solution to change whatever is contributing to the oppression. This aptitude for creativity is primarily what I have gained at the Women’s Center.” -Keith Grubb ‘13

“I have been given so many opportunities because of working here. This office has opened many other doors for me. Going into interviews for full time jobs, I found that the bulk of my experiences and skills stemmed from the work I had done here. Any question about issues that were important to the workplace and professionalism, I answered well because of my experiences here.” -Nur Ibrahim ‘13

“The most valuable aspect of my internship experience has been the sense of empowerment it has afforded me. I’ve always been afraid that I am too invisible to make a difference on the people around me. I used to (and still sometimes) stand in the way of my own success because I stall on a good idea or freeze before I fully execute an idea and working at the WC has given me the experience of forcing me to see a project through to the end. Overall, that has given me a more positive experience of what it means to execute an idea that came from my mind. I have a more positive viewpoint on the power of my own ideas now, which I don’t think would have been possible without the time I spent working as a WC intern.” -Gaga Gondwe ‘13

In the following pages, you will have a chance to see the results of these students’ efforts, as well as that of their fellow interns and the rest of our staff. We’re very proud of what we’ve accomplished this year, and I’m excited to be able to share it with you in this report.

Gina Helfrich, Ph.D.
Director
I was a quiet freshman. I would not raise my voice in class or in a group setting because everything that I said, I thought was silly. There were so many smart people around me; what was I doing here? What could I say that would make any amount of difference? I had achieved quite a bit in high school to make my way here, but I had grown up around smart assertive speakers and doers who always outtalked and outdid me, around whom I never felt I had a significant contribution to make.

By the end of a homesick freshman year I was looking for employment that included some semblance of skill building and brainpower. I applied to and was accepted as an undergraduate intern at the Harvard College Women's Center. I joined in sophomore year and never looked back. This environment, the people and the work changed my worldview by opening it up to critical examination. I learned to criticize and analyze my own assumptions about communities and individuals and began to observe my language, my interactions and my perceptions. For the first time, I began to apply the word “feminist” to my identity as a student, a woman, a Pakistani and a global citizen.

Part of the mission of the Women’s Center is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all genders that encourages dialogue and diversity. Through our many events and initiatives, we do exactly that for Harvard College students. I had the opportunity to work on initiatives like Women’s Week, organize events that celebrate inspiring individuals, give money to deserving student groups that have their own goals to further gender issues, write for our blog, and most recently develop a long-term training project called Gender 101.

As my senior project I took on the daunting task of creating a platform for Gender 101 and revamping the format as it currently stood. Gender 101 is a great discussion workshop that highlights gender diversity at Harvard and the importance of not boxing individuals into strict gender categories. This year we have had a series of Gender 101 discussions with programs like Athena, Strong Women Strong Girls, and International Women’s Rights Collective. We want to expand this project to groups that don’t necessarily have “gender” in their mission statements, because gender really applies to all organizations and individuals.

Along the way I found a great community of people who, from coworkers, became my good friends. The “dub-cee” community, as it is affectionately called, has welcoming, passionate, driven, fun loving and caring people that make Harvard a great place to get an education.

Nur Nasreen Ibrahim ’13

Internships at the Harvard College Women's Center provide a select group of students each year with the opportunity to develop their skills in discussion facilitation, public speaking, writing, event planning, project management, working with a team, and other basic professional skills. Women's Center interns learn how to work with people of diverse backgrounds and identities, how to talk about social issues relating to gender and other forms of identity, and the importance of advocating for gender equity and women’s visibility. Our undergraduate interns are responsible for conceptualizing, planning, and implementing the events described in the following pages. They play a crucial role in keeping the Women's Center connected to the wider Harvard College community and serve as “ambassadors” of the HCWC within other communities on campus.
Fall 2012 Events

Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture - Aug 28

2012’s Ann Radcliffe Trust Lecture, given annually during Opening Days for the incoming first-year class, honors the legacy of Ann Radcliffe, Harvard's first female benefactor. This year's speaker was Jill Lepore, David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History. Professor Lepore's research interests include the political, cultural, and literary history of the United States. Her enthralling lecture, “The Meaning of Life: A History,” received a standing ovation from the Class of 2016.

Student Activities Fair - Sept 7

Early each fall, the Women's Center participates in the Student Activities Fair, a lively gathering of student organizations and student life offices designed to introduce incoming first-years to the many communities on campus. HCWC staff and interns were on hand to answer questions about life at Harvard and to tell new students about the many events and programs offered by the Women’s Center.

A Prep School Negro: A Documentary - Sept 26

The Women’s Center, in partnership with the Asian American Association, Black Men's Forum, Black Students Association, Fuerza Latina, Freshman Dean's Office, Harvard Financial Aid Initiative, Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, Office of BGLTQ Student Life, Phillips Brooks House Association and the Public Service Network, co-sponsored a screening of the thought-provoking documentary “A Prep School Negro.” Women’s Center interns and staff joined a wide range of Harvard students and faculty to see the film and to participate in the open discussion that followed with director André Robert Lee. The film told the story of Lee's own acceptance to a New England Prep school on full scholarship, where he encountered a world very racially different from the one he grew up in. Lee’s story of personal discovery and self-discovery resonated with many of the students who attended the screening. The film sparked a lively discussion amongst the students and faculty who attended and revealed how sharing a story like Lee's can spark a positive and necessary dialogue about race, class, and culture.

The Body Politic: A Discussion of Gender, Sex, and Politics in the Elections - Oct 24

The Women’s Center, along with Delta Gamma sorority, hosted a discussion on gender, sex, and politics as part of the second “Sex Week at Harvard.” Inspired by early 20th century suffragettes, our event encouraged student speakers to give an informal speech on political issues related to gender, sex, and sexuality. Together, students watched a clip from Eisenhower's 1952 campaign that targeted women voters and remarked how women-focussed strategies had changed or stayed the same in the past half-century. We then heard speeches ranging from the importance of women's representation on Harvard's Undergraduate Council to the role of the United States in providing international family planning resources. Students engaged in respectful discussion about key issues in the fall election including abortion, marriage equality, and equal pay.

Reel Dynamics: Carrie - Oct 30

On the Eve of Halloween, students joined the Women's Center in the Adams House Pool Theater for a screening of Brian de Palma’s horror classic, Carrie. After the screening, representatives from Response Peer Counseling, Harvard College's counseling group for issues relating to relationships, violence, and sexual assault, led a discussion on the portrayal of women in the film. Conversation touched on many topics, including girl-on-girl violence in high schools, abusive relationships between daughters and mothers, and the demonization of female sexuality. Ultimately, despite public outcry that presents Carrie as a monster, our conversation led us to decide that Carrie was not inherently evil but rather was the product of cultural and social forces that were imposed on her. The psychologically and emotionally thrilling climax of the film and the analytical discussion that accompanied it proved to be the perfect way to kick off celebrations for the spookiest day of the year.

Saving Face: Documentary Film Screening - Oct 31

The Harvard College Pakistan Students Association (PSA), the Harvard Asia Center, and the Sustained Dialogue program joined the Women’s Center to screen this year’s Academy Award-winning Documentary Short, Saving Face, in the HCWC lounge. Directed by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Daniel Junge, the film chronicles Pakistan's growing problem of violence against women in the form of acid attacks, and one doctor's efforts to reconstruct the faces of two affected women. After the screening, 25 students stayed to discuss concerns as well as objections raised by the film. Featuring graphic images of women's faces after being doused with acid by their husbands and in-laws, viewers were both moved and appalled. The dialogue included questions about the patriarchal language used to describe survivors of acid attacks and the prevalence of other women enabling and perpetuating these attacks against women. Students evaluated the documentary style and the group brainstormed different methods of looking at the subject through media and film.
Boxers, Briefs, or Neither? - Nov 1
In early November, a large group of students, including many men, came together to discuss masculinity on Harvard’s campus and at large. HCWC interns facilitated open-ended “share-outs,” which included discussion of masculine gender expression, perceptions of masculinity, variations across cultures, masculinity’s implications for sexuality, links to religion, and stereotyping. Film clips from Mulan, music videos, and Home Depot commercials provided additional fodder for conversation about portrayals of men and masculinity in the media. Attendees included members of the Black Men’s Forum, the Asian American Brotherhood, residents of the Harvard Co-Op, members of Final Clubs, and a graduate student writing his thesis on masculinity. At the close of the event, attendees expressed the desire to continue similar conversations on campus.

New England Women’s Centers Conference - Nov 3
One Saturday in early November, representatives from the Women’s Center traveled to Stonehill College to attend the third annual New England Women’s Center Conference. HCWC interns Gaga Gondwe and Keith Grubb led a workshop on “Inclusivity,” which they created together based on theoretical understandings of identity and diversity. Their presentation ultimately included a model of inclusivity for Women’s Center workplaces that focuses on intentionally recognizing and affirming that gender and sex intersect with other identities such as race, nation of origin, and sexuality. The conversation that transpired in this workshop challenged both the attendees and the interns who facilitated to think critically about how to actively create a welcoming and inclusive environment in all of the work that the Women’s Center does, as well as what it means to create a safe space for people. In addition to leading this workshop, the interns had the opportunity to meet representatives from other Women’s Centers in the New England area, which allowed for the sharing of common experiences and best practices.

The Gendered Body in Movement: A Conversation with Choreographer John Jasperse - Nov 14
In our cozy space at the Harvard College Women’s Center, we hosted choreographer and Artist-in-Residence John Jasperse for a discussion on challenging and deconstructing gender identity in the dance industry. Mr. Jasperse led both undergraduate and graduate students through his career as the successful Artistic Director and Choreographer of John Jasperse Company, taking the attendees through his own exploration of gender identity and embodiment in the creative process and performance of his movement. Mr. Jasperse screened clips of some of his most provocative pieces, and it was fantastic to be able to hear about the motivation and inspiration for such pieces from the choreographer himself. Following the presentation, Mr. Jasperse opened the discussion up to questions, as students eagerly asked about everything from reception of his work to advice on how to be successful in the dance industry as a choreographer.
For the past few years, the Women's Center has been vocal in drawing attention to problematic expressions of school pride in the form of Harvard/Yale football game t-shirts that rely on sexist tropes. This year, in an effort to promote positive school spirit, the Women's Center hosted a t-shirt contest and produced 100 free shirts to give away using the winner's design. As our intern Nur Ibrahim wrote in her blog post about the contest, “the Women’s Center hoped that our shirts would help students to represent Harvard as an open, friendly, welcoming and fun-loving place that doesn’t need to degrade other communities to gain the upper hand in a competition.” Congratulations to Bex Kwan ’13 for winning the contest! All 100 shirts were scooped up within the first few hours of giving them away; students loved them!

Kristin Chenoweth Visit - Dec 7

This winter, the Women's Center staff had the opportunity to visit with prominent actress, singer, and entertainer Kristin Chenoweth, an Emmy and Tony Award winner and Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee. Ms. Chenoweth received rave reviews while starring in the ABC series Pushing Daisies, where she received an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series; she has appeared in Fox's comedy Glee, where she played a former student who comes back to help re-energize the Glee club. She also starred as Annabeth Schott on the hit drama The West Wing and guest-judged on American Idol. Many remember her show-stealing, Tony-winning performance in You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown and her triumphant star turn when she originated the role of Glinda the Good Witch in the Broadway musical Wicked, which earned her a leading actress Tony Award nomination. Ms. Chenoweth talked with the HCWC student staff about a variety of subjects, including the challenges of being a successful woman in entertainment, the need for aspiring female actors to write the roles they want to play or wish existed, and the perpetual necessity to continue working hard and honing one’s craft even as an accomplished professional, rather than resting on one’s laurels.

Mental Health Matters Campaign

In response to a series of Crimson articles about students struggling with mental health issues, HCWC interns, in partnership with student interns from the Office of BGLTQ Student Life and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, launched a year-long awareness and support campaign called “Mental Health Matters.” The goal of the campaign was to create a welcoming and inclusive community conversation around student mental health at Harvard College. Students were invited to post anonymously to an online Tumblr, where they could read what other students shared, share their thoughts, stories and struggles, and access a list of campus resources. In the spring semester, we created a poster campaign featuring students holding up signs they had written themselves with tips for how to promote mental health. Sayings such as “Some days, a smile makes all the difference” and “When I feel stressed out, I surround myself with friends” promoted healthy social norms. The campaign wrapped up the year with a mental health study break in May that featured representatives from campus mental health resource organizations, including the Bureau of Study Counsel, Student Mental Health Liaisons, Eating Concerns Hotline and Outreach, Response, Room 13, Contact, and Peer Contraceptive Counselors. Attendees enjoyed eating tea and decorating cookies to unwind from the stresses of the end of the year.

Spring 2013 Events

Yes or No? - Feb 15 & 16

Early this spring semester, the Women’s Center helped produce a theatrical experiment on sexual assault at Harvard, co-sponsored with the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. Titled “Yes or No?,” the performance was the result of a three week long collaborative effort among 20 Harvard student artists. Over two nights, more than 150 people came to the Agassiz Theater in Radcliffe Yard to participate in the interactive show that combined many different artistic forms including dance, song, poetry and comedy. After each performance, the audience engaged with the cast in a conversation about their experience of the show, and each shared moments of recognition, discomfort and surprise. Overall, the event was successful in leaving the audience thinking deeply about the campus dialogue on sexual assault and inspiring more conversations on the topic.

Sexual Assault and Gender Violence in South Asia: What Can We Learn from the Delhi Rape Incident? – Feb 20

In response to the Delhi Rape incident this spring, the Women’s Center co-sponsored a discussion on the aftermath of the incident and the next steps that could be taken to address this issue. The discussion was organized in collaboration with the South Asia Institute, Harvard India Student Group, Harvard College South Asian Association, Harvard College Pakistan Student Association, Harvard Kennedy School South Asia Caucus, Harvard College South Asian Women’s Collective, Harvard Kennedy School Pakistan Caucus, and Harvard Women’s Law Association. A major concern prior to this conference was an extreme reaction to a blog post on the Harvard College Women’s Center website highlighting a working group of academics and students put together to analyze the recommendations of the Verma Commission. Bloggers and activists in India criticized the role of an institution like Harvard in offering recommendations on remedying an issue in India. The event was moderated by Professor Jacqueline Bhabha from the Kennedy School and focused on the issue of sexual assault and gender-related violence in the South Asia region. Prof. Bhabha cautioned against a stance that would silence ideas from an institution in the United States, regardless of its distance from South Asia or the elite reputation of a place like Harvard. Panelists ranged from undergraduate students to researchers and activists who had worked with survivors and perpetrators of sexual violence in India. The discussion addressed notions of national and social identity, sexual norms and ethics, the role of the media and education sectors, issues of masculinity, and the history of sexual violence in the subcontinent.

Start $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop - Feb 22

The Women’s Center proudly offered our annual salary negotiation workshop in collaboration with the Office of Career Services. Start $mart, a program developed by the W.A.G.E. Project and the American Association of University Women, teaches students about the gender pay gap, its causes, and how to negotiate to be paid fairly for what you are worth. On average in the United States, for every $100 a woman earns, a man will earn $130 for doing the same work. This accumulates so that over his working lifetime, a man will earn on average $1 million more than a woman simply because of his gender. The Start $mart workshop equips students with the tools to research what a job is worth and to assertively negotiate initial salaries, raises, and benefit packages. We also presented research by Harvard Kennedy School researcher Hannah Riley Bowles on the backlash that women suffer when they are assertive, as well as offering pragmatic and proven methods to avoid this backlash while negotiating.

Makers: Stories from the Women Who Made America - February 26 & 27

In collaboration with the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, the Women’s Center hosted a viewing party for the premier of the PBS documentary Makers: Stories from the Women Who Made America. The evening began with a brief introduction of the film by Dr. Nancy F. Cott, Trumbull Professor of American History and Director of the Schlesinger Library. Dr. Cott gave some background on how the film came to be produced and the interactive website that, along with the film, aims to capture the stories of women who have been influential in American history. Because it is a three-hour documentary, only an hour of the film was shown on Tuesday to leave time for further discussion with Dr. Cott. Attendees shared their thoughts and asked Dr. Cott questions which probed beyond the history that was presented in the film. Dr. Cott was able to provide great historical perspective and a nuanced critique of the history-telling method the film used. Attendees walked away with a deeper understanding of the Second Wave of feminism in the United States. The film was shown in its entirety the following afternoon in the HCWC lounge.
Women’s Week and The Voice of Our Generation: Putting HBO’s *Girls* on Trial - March 10

Each year, the Women’s Center coordinates a series of events in early March called Harvard College Women’s Week. Student organizations are invited to put on events highlighting women’s and gender issues, and the entire campus spends the week celebrating and talking about women in honor of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month.

HCWC interns created an event called “The Voice of Our Generation: Putting HBO’s *Girls* on Trial,” which brought together members of the Harvard community of all genders to debate whether or not this popular television show does or does not present a representative voice of their generation. (During the first season of the show, the title character, who is played by the show’s creator, Lena Dunham, claims to be the voice of her generation.) The scene was set with some NYC-style hot dogs and pizza, and we assigned attendees to one of two teams: the “defense,” who defended the show for its collective representation, and the “prosecution,” who criticized this representation. The event began with the attendees “preparing their cases” after watching some video-clips from the show for inspiration. And with that, the debate began! With the “prosecution” and the “defense” arguing for their sides, compelling praises and predicaments of the show were brought to the floor. For example, the “defense” brought up the way that the show displays its characters’ flaws for the audience to see, making the show more “real” than others. Then, the “prosecution” struck back by critiquing the show for its lack of racial, sexual, and socioeconomic diversity, elucidating the potential alienating effects of the show on its viewers. The event engaged students in thinking critically about this piece of popular culture, and as one attendee said, “[Before the event] I don’t think I thought about the effects of a TV show on its audience—so it forced me to think about it as more than a TV show.”
Women in the World Summit - April 4-5

This spring, a small group of senior interns from the Women’s Center had the chance to attend the Women in the World Summit in New York City, organized by The Daily Beast. The two day event was an intimate and impactful gathering centered on vivid storytelling and live journalism and sought to raise consciousness about gender advocacy and inspire solutions to the world’s greatest problems. Writing for the blog PolicyMic, HCWC Intern Suzanne Bobadilla ‘13 summarized her first day’s experience as follows:

Tina Brown, who originally launched the first summit back in 2010, kicked off the night with introductory remarks. After a quick shout out to the college students in the audience (hey Harvard!), Brown reflected on this past year, mentioning specifically how social media has brought women’s interests to a “tipping point.” In an interesting reinterpretation of Sheryl Sanberg’s Lean In, Brown called on leaders to “lean on” institutions to end gender oppression.

Barbara Walters led a discussion on women in Syria with her central question, “Why should Americans care about what’s happening in Syria, particularly to its women?” Panelists Mouna Ghamen, cofounder of the Syrian State movement and coordinator of the Women Make Peace Platform, and Zainab Salbi, founder of Women for Women International, met Walters’ direct questions with powerful persuasion. Ghamen emphatically repeated that “women’s issues is a security issue, a foreign policy issue,” while Salbi endorsed the potential of women’s peacemaking as the region’s only hope. Over 70,000 individuals have died in the Syrian conflict and while Ghamen and Salbi both yearn for peace, they articulated the necessity that it ought to be a negotiated, political process that ends it. Ghamen insisted that she wants peace, but demands democracy.

The “South Africa’s New Power Player” segment was a bit of a misnomer since its honoree, Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, has been a part of South Africa’s activist, medical, and business leadership for many decades. The theater broke into stunned murmurs when Dr. Ramphele reminds us, “Every 34 seconds a woman is raped in South Africa. It’s a crisis, it’s an oppression.” Brown further understood. I thought Dr. Ramphele’s most powerful reflection came when she cited the importance of intersectionality in fighting oppression: “Whether it’s racism, gender equality, once you are a conscious being you have no choice but to be a change agent.”

The last panel, “The Next Generation of Malalas” was by far the true highlight of the night. The all-star Christiane Amanpour moderated a discussion between Humaira Bachal, founder of the Dream Foundation Trust, Khalida Brohi, founder of the Sughr Women Program, and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, CEO of SOC Films. The panelists were all extraordinary young women fighting for girls’ education in Pakistan, a cause for which the young Malala Yousafzai was attacked by the Taliban this fall. Khalida explained to WIW how she remained so collected while facing down men who threatened violence against Pakistani schoolgirls: “I think I was being patient because I knew one day this man would be working for me.” All three panelists acknowledge the danger inherent in their activism since, as Sharmeen directly put it, “The more you speak out, the more we shake society, the bigger the target.” But ultimately the audience was brought to a standing ovation when Khalida confided, “Before I left I told my dad, ‘Not doing this work would kill me. Doing this work will keep me alive. Let me go.’”

Stunning. To conclude the evening, Angelina Jolie announced the establishment of the Malala Fund, a foundation that will be directed by Malala herself to continue her cause for girls’ education. “They shot her point blank in the head,” Jolie said, “and made her stronger.” The fund’s first work will be to take 40 girls out of domestic labor and place them into the schools with the goal to turn “40 girls into 40 million girls.”

Women’s and Gender Advocacy Career Fair - April 12

In April, the Women’s Center hosted its first career fair to help students explore careers in women’s and gender advocacy. The fair was co-sponsored by the Office of Career Services, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, the Institute of Politics, Phillips Brooks House Association, Public Service Network, Center for Public Interest Careers, and the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. The event opened with a panel discussion and Q&A featuring professionals from Hollaback! Boston, Legal Momentum, and the Women’s Media Center discussing what it’s like to work in their organizations and what students can do to prepare themselves for a career in advocacy. Following the panel, students were able to speak directly with representatives from a variety of women’s and gender advocacy organizations regarding their work, job and internship openings with their organizations, and strategies for advocating for women and advancing gender equity, regardless of one’s field or specialty.

Above, HCWC Intern Suzanna Bobadilla ‘13 moderates a panel discussion on women’s and gender advocacy careers.
Birth Story - April 24

The Women’s Center co-sponsored a screening of the feature-length documentary Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin and The Farm Midwives with the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and Baraka Birth. The film tells the story of counterculture heroine Ina May Gaskin and her spirited friends, who began delivering each other’s babies in 1970 on a caravan of hippie school buses headed to a patch of rural Tennessee land. With Ina May as their leader, the women taught themselves midwifery from the ground up, and, with their families, founded an entirely communal, agricultural society called “The Farm.” They grew their own food, built their own houses, published their own books, and, as word of their social experiment spread, created a model of care for women and babies that changed a generation’s approach to childbirth. Forty years ago, Ina May led the charge away from isolated hospital birthing rooms, where husbands were not allowed and mandatory forceps deliveries were the norm. Today, as nearly one third of all US babies are born via C-section, she fights to preserve her community’s hard-won knowledge. With incredible access to the midwives’ archival video collection, the film not only captures the unique sisterhood at The Farm Clinic—from its founding into the present—but shows childbirth the way most people have never seen it: unadorned, unabashed, and awe-inspiring.

Start Here: Women, Fitness, and Mental Health - April 27

HCWC intern Gaga Gondwe ’13 conceptualized “Start Here” to encourage dialogue and incite action surrounding undergraduate women’s fitness at Harvard. Undergraduate women gathered in the HCWC Lounge to hear a presentation by Nicole Pizzi, a trainer from the Hemenway Gym, about the best ways to incorporate a well-rounded fitness routine into hectic college life. Ms. Pizzi has studied nutrition and fitness and shared a lot of valuable knowledge with students. She encouraged attendees to retain their brains to think about exercise as something fun by calling it “play” or “moving” – adjectives that still encompass the spirit of fitness training but don’t sound as odious as “work.” One outcome of the event was that every participant had the opportunity to think about what fitness commitments they wanted to make for themselves moving forward. Each participant shared her commitments with the group afterwards, which ranged from training to run a half-marathon to learning how to convert everyday objects in the home into tools for effective fitness training.

Swap ’Til You Drop - May 3

To close out the year “in style,” the Women’s Center hosted our annual clothing swap, in which students bring unwanted clothing to exchange with one another. Held during Reading Period, the swap is well-timed to help students clean out their closets prior to moving out. Attendees enjoyed a homemade brunch, compliments of HCWC staff, and shared excitement over great clothing finds. The event filled the Center with laughter and smiles, promoting our mission of “creating community.” All clothing that was donated but not exchanged was given to the Bread and Jams shelter in Cambridge.

Women's Leadership Awards - May 14

The 16th annual Harvard College Women’s Leadership Awards was held at the Charles Hotel, where over 100 students, administrators, faculty, and alumnae gathered to enjoy a cocktail reception, dinner, and stirring speeches from this year’s recipients. The Harvard College Women’s Leadership Awards are made possible through a generous endowment established by a gift from Terrie Fried Bloom ’75. The annual celebration of the WLA helps the Women’s Center realize our mission of celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire. The Women’s Leadership Award is given to a senior in the College whose leadership has had a meaningful impact and who has set an example that inspires women to assume leadership roles. In 2012-13, a new record of 80 seniors were nominated for the award. 44 students completed the application, and thus were considered for this prestigious honor.

This year’s winner, Lena Awwad ’13, was selected for her outstanding advocacy on behalf of Palestinian high school students who were in jeopardy of losing their chance to take the SATs. Awwad co-authored “Israel vs. No. 2 Pencils,” published in the Harvard Crimson, when not a single U.S. news source picked up the story of the SAT hold-up in Palestine. Shortly thereafter, the White House released a press briefing announcing the issue had been resolved and that Palestinian students should “sharpen their No. 2 Pencils.” Thanks to Awwad’s efforts, at least one of those students will be attending Harvard next year. Awwad spoke about the importance of “the ability to fight not only for one’s own rights, but for the rights of others, especially when they’re not able to do it themselves,” and credited the “difficult circumstances” she experienced growing up in Palestine with shaping her into the person that she is today. Nadia Farjood was also celebrated as Honorable Mention in acknowledgment of her extensive work encouraging women to assume leadership roles, particularly through involvement with the Athena mentoring program. Upon learning that there was no course at Harvard on women in politics, Farjood succeeded in agitating for an undergraduate-level course. The new lecture course, “Women and U.S. Politics,” will be taught next year.

This year’s professional award winner, Kathleen McCartney, is departing her role as Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education in order to assume the presidency of Smith College. McCartney, a first-generation college student herself, is an internationally recognized authority on child development, particularly with respect to early childhood education, childcare, and poverty. In her seven years as the head of HGSE, the school raised $162 million dollars, including two $10 million dollar gifts in support of pioneering programs to prepare the next generation of education leaders, and launched a new doctoral program in education. In her acceptance speech, she encouraged young women to find a life-partner who truly supports equality within the relationship and shared work/family responsibilities.
The Women’s Cabinet is composed of representatives from student organizations whose missions and projects concern women and gender issues. The Women’s Center convenes the Cabinet monthly for leadership development, networking, knowledge sharing, and group problem-solving. Women’s Cabinet members review grant applications for the Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund and play a central role in coordinating Women’s Week in the spring.

Women’s Cabinet

Active members of the 2021-2013 Women’s Cabinet were: The Alberta V. Scott Mentor Program, Asian American Women’s Association, Association of Black Harvard Women; Athena Program; Contact Peer Counseling; Delta Gamma; Harvard Consent, Assault Awareness, and Relationship Educators; Eating Concerns Hotline and Outreach; G-Chat; Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever; H-Bomb; Harvard College Science Club for Girls; Harvard University Women in Business; International Women’s Rights Collective; Latinas Unidas; Organization of Asian-American Sisters in Service; Peer Contraceptive Counselors; Phillips Brooks House Association; Queer Students and Allies; Radcliffe Union of Students; Response Peer Counseling; Sexual Health Education and Advocacy throughout Harvard College; the Seneca, Inc.; Smart Woman Securities; Speak Out Loud; Student Mental Health Liaisons; Strong Women, Strong Girls; Radcliffe Pitches; Undergraduate Council; the Women’s Initiative in Leadership at the Institute of Politics; Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe; and the Women’s Leadership Project.

Our Space

The Women’s Center offers different spaces suited to a variety of needs for students and student groups. Our lounge has couches, armchairs, floor pillows, and a plasma television with DVD player and can accommodate up to 30 people (top left). Our conference room offers a quieter space for students to study and hold meetings (bottom right), and students are welcome to check email at our computer stations and utilize the copier/printer/scanner/fax machine for a small fee per page (top right). The Women’s Center also has a full kitchen that can be used by students (bottom left).

These spaces are open to all Harvard students from Monday to Friday, 9:30am-5:30pm and Monday to Wednesday, 6-10pm while school is in session.

Student groups often take advantage of the opportunity to reserve space in the Women’s Center, which operates as a “home base” for many student organizations.

Thank you immensely for your generosity, encouragement, and support. We appreciate the space you share with us greatly; it is the heart of Athena’s programming and an integral part of our history and development. We benefit every week from your resources, and we cannot express how grateful we are for your work to promote respect for all people.”
—Nadia Farjood ’13, Athena Program Co-Director

HCWC Programs

HCWC interns facilitate a team-building exercise with members of the Women’s Cabinet during their fall retreat.
G-Chat First Year Women’s Discussion Group

The mission of G-Chat is to facilitate discussion among Harvard’s first-year women concerning academic, social, and personal tenets of the college experience in order to create lasting bonds between members, foster a sense of comfort during difficult times, and serve as a means of support throughout the year. Founded by Chelsea Celistan ’14 and Amanda Villani ’14 in the Spring of 2011, G-Chat is a resource for first-year women at Harvard to discuss all aspects of life particular to women students in the freshman class. In an effort to create a safe space on campus for open conversations, discussions span topics across social, academic and health-related spheres. After receiving an Ann Radcliffe Trust Grant for the 2011-2012 school year, G-Chat became a Women’s Center program for the 2012-2013 academic year and was able to make a greater impact on the student body. From partnering with other groups to planning events to hosting discussion panels amongst female students and professionals, we were able to spread our mission and positively impact a significant number of people this year.

G-Chat was able to make great strides during the 2012-2013 school year, starting with the creation of an executive board. We are comprised of 5 sophomores and juniors who share the advertising and discussion leadership responsibilities. We held 7 discussion meetings with first-year women over the course of the 2012-2013 school year. Because we have a core group of attendees, we were able to have more fruitful discussions that touched upon more general issues such as blocking, concentrations, and final clubs, and more timely issues pertaining to the Super Bowl about whether or not Beyoncé should be considered a symbol of women’s sports. We held 7 discussion meetings with first-year women over the course of the 2012-2013 school year, G-Chat became a Women’s Center program for the 2012-2013 academic year and was able to make a greater impact on the student body. From partnering with other groups to planning events to hosting discussion panels amongst female students and professionals, we were able to spread our mission and positively impact a significant number of people this year.

Our two best events this year came through partnerships with the Women’s Leadership Project, Her Campus Harvard, and the Harvard College Women’s Center. On February 14, 2013, we put on a Valentine’s Day event, “Be Yours,” to provide a space for Harvard students of all genders, sexualities, and relationship statuses to come together in Ticknor Lounge to celebrate crafts, chocolate, cookie-decorating, photo shoots, and conversations to reclaim Valentine’s Day. Students of all years and genders attended, and since our event was located in the yard, we had many first-year women sign up for our email list.

In April, we had a panel discussion, “From Passion to Action,” supported by Women’s Week, and co-sponsored by G-Chat, Women’s Leadership Project, and Her Campus Harvard. The event consisted of five panelists: co-founders of Science Club for Girls, the founders of Her Campus, Project HEAL, and I Like Fall. These strong women were able to spread our mission and positively impact a significant number of people this year.

In addition to considering gender parity in leadership across types of student organizations, the survey investigated whether male and female students are equally likely to lead “prestigious” groups. A dining hall survey was conducted in which nearly 500 students were asked to name the five most “prestigious” campus organizations. Using “your own definition of prestige,” students listed nearly thirty organizations greater than ten times, with the Crimson and the Undergraduate Council topping the list in first and second place, respectively. Approximately half of the most “prestigious” organizations are led primarily or entirely by male students, while only four are primarily or entirely female-led. Four of the top five most “prestigious” campus organizations are led primarily by male leadership. Only one of the top thirty organizations, Harvard University Women in Business, was exclusively run by female leadership.

Much of the qualitative data from focus groups reflects well-established research on trends in how men and women view themselves and their relationship to leadership roles. For example, men are more likely to put themselves forward for leadership roles without considering whether they are most qualified to lead, whereas women generally require being told by others that they should consider leadership positions before they will put themselves forward.

With this longitudinal data in hand, the Women’s Center plans to continue working with the Undergraduate Council and our partners in the Office of Student Life to close gender gaps in leadership and promote an equitable environment for students to assume leadership positions within student organizations.
Radcliffe Mentor Program

Now in its 28th year, in 2012-13 the Radcliffe Mentor Program (RMP) matched 159 student participants with alumnae mentors of Harvard and Radcliffe for career exploration and conversations about life after graduation. Pairs met two to three times per semester to discuss career development, work/life balance, graduate school preparation, and other related topics. Mentors range from the classes of the late 1960s to the class of 2011. Approximately 200 mentors are available each year to be matched with undergraduates, 98% of whom are women.

Throughout the year, mentors and mentees pursued a variety of activities together, including shadowing at the mentor’s workplace, reviewing resumes and cover letters, attending lectures, concerts, and plays together, or just meeting for coffee at a local café. The emphasis of the program continues to be driven by the pairs themselves—their needs, goals, and mutual interests.

The program strives to support students through the fostering of significant relationships outside of the “Harvard bubble.” If you or someone you know are an alumna and live within 50 miles of Boston, please consider joining the program! Visit our website to sign up for a mentor profile: http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/rmp

A group of current and former Radcliffe Mentors help to administer the program through participation on the RMP Steering Committee. We are especially grateful for the contributions of our 2012-13 Committee members:

Rina Bloch ’78, Michelle Cerulli ’08, Gena Haugen ’09, Norma Markson ’54, Sue Miller, MAT ’62, Lindsey Morse ’05, Emma Previato, Bunting ’96, Jade Reichling ’09, Bea Rogers ’68, Luisa Stigol GSA ’65, and Carolyn Wintner ’08.

We know that alumnae participation as a mentor makes a difference in the lives of students. One of our 2012-13 student mentees had this to say about her Radcliffe mentor: “I really enjoyed participating in the Radcliffe Mentorship program. As someone really interested in food policy, I was able to receive advice from an expert in the field. My mentor told me about conferences, potential internship opportunities, and research going on in the field. Also, I was able to hear about her fascinating work, and it really inspired me. I really enjoyed having someone wiser to ask questions to, and my mentor was incredibly helpful.”

Another 2012-2013 student mentee reflected: “I’ve gotten valuable advice from someone in my specialty that I’d definitely not have had access to otherwise. I’ve made a good friend who I can talk to about anything and who genuinely cares about me, and I’ve gotten to talk to someone who has followed the career path that I am seriously thinking about.”

Finally, about the importance of her mentor, another student mentee expressed: “I really appreciated having someone to talk to who could relate to my interests and could understand life at Harvard and beyond. Especially during freshman year, it was great to have an additional advisor, friend, and mentor who was an adult and who cared about me. I felt like I connected a lot through my mentor’s occupation but also on a personal level, and she taught me many greater life lessons that I will take with me beyond the mentorship.”

Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WISTEM) Mentor Program

The Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WISTEM) Mentor Program matches undergraduate women studying the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) with graduate student women earning advanced degrees in those fields at Harvard. These year-long relationships support students in exploring different academic paths, career possibilities, and graduate programs, with the ultimate goal of increasing the pipeline of women interested in STEM careers, which have historically been male-dominated.

In 2012-2013, we maintained the growth that we have seen in recent years—receiving 94 mentor applications and 91 mentee applications. We held a kickoff event in the fall which featured information on creating and sustaining fulfilling mentoring relationships. In the spring, we hosted a luncheon featuring two speakers hailing from two different professional arenas: industry and teaching. Chérie Butts, the Associate Director of Immunology Research at Biogen Idec, and Gillian Smith, Assistant Professor at Northeastern University, spoke for over an hour, fielding both professional and personal questions from the WISTEM participants.

Our end-of-year survey, answered by 42 participants consisting almost equally of mentors and mentees, helped us to evaluate the impact of this important program. 86% of respondents indicated that they plan to continue studying or pursuing professional opportunities in a STEM field; 30% reported an increased sense of belonging in their field of study compared to when they first joined WISTEM; 67% of respondents indicated that they feel like their participation in WISTEM makes a positive impact on the climate for women in STEM; and 60% reported that their participation in WISTEM has motivated them to seek out other, informal mentoring relationships, thereby advancing the network of support among women in STEM fields.

The best measure of the program, however, can be found in the words of the participants:

"For me, the biggest encouragement to continue in STEM was having female advisers and mentors. Having women mentor other women creates a greater sense of community and helps women gain confidence that they can also be successful in science."

"It is very difficult to remain in a challenging field longer-term if you do not see people ‘like you’ at the higher levels along the trajectory you wish to pursue. By pairing students with older students who have successfully made it to the next step and are planning to pursue STEM even further, all of a sudden that pathway seems like a truly feasible and more appealing option."

"The panelists were wonderful! I loved hearing not only their stories but also all the advice they had and what they have found the most trying and the most helpful as women in science. I think it’s probably the best advice I’ve ever received. The two were also able to bounce ideas off each other when giving advice and I thought that was great."

"I loved my mentor! She was the best, reaching out to meet and talk once in a while and always there for me when I needed advice. It was really nice to have someone to talk to outside my Harvard advisors."

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Gender 101 Workshops

This year, HCWC interns performed eight Gender 101 trainings to various student groups on campus seeking to become more skilled in navigating gender diversity and more welcoming to all genders. The goals of the Gender 101 training are to build an awareness of diversity of gender identities amongst student groups on campus, to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all genders that encourages dialogue and diversity, and to build the capacity of individuals to be respectful and understanding of gender diversity. Each training lasted for approximately one hour and included interactive presentations to help participants internalize the nature of gender spectrum and gain an understanding of gender diversity on the Harvard campus and around the world. Participants learned about many of the prevalent gender binaries in media, society, the workplace, and on campus and discussed ways to complicate and deconstruct limiting narratives about gender expression and identity.

Gender Binary - A very common system of thought referring to certain ideas that many people hold about gender and sex. The gender binary is not correct. It presumes that everyone is either male or female, and implies that trans people do not exist.

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women's Center Community Fund

The Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women’s Center Community Fund 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. Grant applications are reviewed by a rotating subset of members of the Women’s Cabinet, along with 2-3 Women’s Center 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.

Currently, we are able to fund about 50% of the requests we receive each year. In 2012-2013, a total of 39 grants totaling $12,876 were awarded to 32 different student groups. Here is just one of the many great projects we supported:

**Project Funded:** Strong Women, Strong Girls Harvard Field Trip Fall 2012

The Harvard Strong Women, Strong Girls chapter hosted a field trip, bringing together 60 girls we mentor from sites all over Cambridge, South End, South Boston, Chinatown, and Dorchester for our Smart Girls in Science field trip. The trip was meant to encourage girls to explore their interests in science and expose them to a university environment. The girls started off the day with a Q&A session with members of the Harvard Women’s Basketball team, learning all about the hard work and dedication that goes into being a college athlete. Then they went on a scavenger hunt through Harvard’s Natural History Museum where they saw exhibits from many different continents that spanned billions of years. After lunch they met two graduate students studying chemistry who used liquid nitrogen to connect science with a tasty ice-cream treat. The final activity of the day was a tour of Harvard with a focus on signature Women’s Center programs, such as our two mentoring programs and the Women’s Leadership Award, and a variety of resources for students, including a Women’s Center-created brochure of resources and options for pregnant students at Harvard College and a comprehensive resource page for women in science, technology, engineering, and math. An additional endeavor the “V&O” interns took on was to reach out to more first-year students in order to help students use the Women’s Center as a resource from the start of their Harvard education. The “V&O” team organized three Women’s Center meet-and-greets in the first-year student dining hall, Annenberg, as well as published bi-weekly trivia questions on women’s history at Harvard in the Freshman Dean’s Office newsletter.

A final initiative we unveiled this year was the Gender-talk listserv, an opt-in email list where discussions on gender related topics between Harvard students and affiliates take place. It is intended to provide a forum for students, faculty, and staff in both the College and graduate schools to engage in discussion and share events related to women’s and gender issues. The list has more than 150 active subscribers, and is growing rapidly!

**Women’s Center Visibility & Outreach**

“The Women’s Center is a place where conversations can become actions. It allows me to talk and then to actually act after, to do more than think—do something with thinking. It’s a place to create change in thinking and acting around gender issues.”

—student response to a survey of visitors to the Women’s Center space

This year, under the supervision of the Radcliffe Club of San Francisco Graduate Intern for Communications and Outreach, a subset of HCWC interns worked together as the “Visibility and Outreach” team for the Women’s Center. The function of this committee is to engage the wider campus community and beyond in dialogue around gender issues, as well as to publicize the mission and activities of the Women’s Center to the Harvard College community. The team managed the web presence of the Women’s Center and worked very hard to create additional opportunities for students and community members to engage with us and one another.

In 2012-13, “V&O” interns created online space for student engagement with women’s and gender issues through four web portals: the HCWC website, our blog, Facebook, and Twitter. Thanks to nineteen posts by the undergraduate interns and guest posts from other Harvard College students, this year our blog generated over 9,000 views, including readership in over 44 countries. We added over 150 followers on Twitter, as well as increased our Facebook “likes” to more than 650. Additionally, our staff has ensured that the Women’s Center website is structured to provide online access to women’s history at Harvard, as well as an up-to-date recap of Women’s Center events and programming. Our site averaged a viewership of nearly 100 views per day. The website centralizes information on signature Women’s Center programs, such as our two mentoring programs and the Women’s Leadership Award, and a variety of resources for students, including a Women’s Center-created brochure of resources and options for pregnant students at Harvard College and a comprehensive resource page for women in science, technology, engineering, and math. An additional endeavor the “V&O” interns took on was to reach out to more first-year students in order to help students use the Women’s Center as a resource from the start of their Harvard education. The “V&O” team organized three Women’s Center meet-and-greets in the first-year student dining hall, Annenberg, as well as published bi-weekly trivia questions on women’s history at Harvard in the Freshman Dean’s Office newsletter.

Harvard College Women’s Center

“Creating CommUNITY”

The Visibility & Outreach team designed laptop stickers with the above design that students could stick to their computers to show their support for HCWC!

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“Through exposing our girls to a university campus, physically bringing them here, and letting them know about all the great work and research being pursued here, we encouraged our girls to pursue higher education.” —Urszula Kadziolka, Strong Women, Strong Girls, ART/WCCF November 2012

Grant Recipient

Harvard College Women’s Center
HCWC People

Administrative Staff

Dr. Gina Helfrich, Director

Gina Helfrich, Ph.D. leads the HCWC’s work to support and promote gender equity and women’s leadership at Harvard. She supervises the Center’s staff and generally endeavors to improve the experience of women and to support diversity and community at Harvard. Gina also holds an appointment as a Lecturer for the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Harvard, where she teaches courses on topics such as implicit bias and stereotype threat, the impact of social identity on policy and democracy, and oppression and moral psychology.

Bridget Duffy, Administrative Coordinator

Bridget Duffy works with the staff and interns to ensure that the Women’s Center runs smoothly. She is responsible for all operational aspects of the Center, handling the HCWC’s financial and logistical needs, and coordinating the Radcliffe Mentor Program. A Boston native, Bridget joined the HCWC staff shortly after its founding the fall of 2006, following a decade working in the administration of alternative medicine schools in Cambridge and Watertown, MA. In 2012-13, Bridget was selected as a “Harvard Hero,” an honor bestowed on only a select few members of Harvard’s 12,000+ staff.

Harvard College Women’s Center Staff 2012-13

Undergraduate Interns:

Graduate Interns:
Jennifer Cisneros HGSE ‘13, Grad Intern for Administration
Isabelle Jenkins HDS ‘14, Radcliffe Club of San Francisco Grad Intern for Communications and Outreach

Class of 2013 Interns

Nyamagaga Gondwe
After graduation, Gaga will teach high school math in Southern Delaware as a Teach for America Corps Member.

Nur Ibrahim
Nur will spend her post-graduation summer as an intern in NYC with Edelman, a public relations firm, working on insights and analytics in their digital department. In the fall, Nur will move to DC to start a six month fellowship with the Al Jazeera English talk show “The Stream.”

Suzanna Bobadilla
Suzanna is moving to San Francisco in the fall to learn more about how digital media culture can be applied to feminist causes. This summer she will go to DC to organize with young activists and bringing awareness to Title IX protections for survivors of sexual assault.

Keith Grubb
Keith will spend some time traveling the country after graduation. In large part because of the nurturing of the Women’s Center, he ultimately plans to join the non-profit sector, focusing on gender and sexuality.

Adrienne Slaughter
After graduation, Adrienne will be teaching 9th grade math in the metro Atlanta area as a Teach for America Corps Member.
Alumnae Involvement

The Women’s Center continually strives to create opportunities for alumnae engagement and to facilitate interactions between current Harvard students and Harvard-Radcliffe alumnae.

Each year, the HCWC opens its doors to alumnae returning to campus for Radcliffe and Harvard class reunions. In September 2012, the 40th Reunion of the Class of 1972 used the Women’s Center as one of its registration locations. Members of the class who had participated in our Residential Revolution event at Pforzheimer House (February 2012) were happy to tour our space and see how we work with the current student body. In May 2013, we were pleased to welcome the Class of 1948 and the Class of 1953 to the Women’s Center for their reunions. If you are looking for a comfortable space to meet with fellow classmates, relax in-between reunion events, or to sit down for a quick cup of coffee or tea, we are happy to accommodate you! Please contact the Women’s Center for more information.

The Women’s Center also maintains ongoing relationships with a variety of active alumnae groups. The Alumnae and Friends of Radcliffe College Shared Interest Group (Radcliffe SIG) promotes intergenerational connections among graduates of Radcliffe College and other members of the Harvard community who share a bond with the former Radcliffe College. Together, the Radcliffe SIG and the Women’s Center honor Radcliffe alumna Jane Opel ’50 each year through giving an award in her name to a member of the 10th reunion class. This year’s Jane Rainie Opel Young Alumna Award winner is Christin McConnell ’03, honored for her work on education impact evaluations with the World Bank both in Malawi and in Washington, DC. For more information about the Radcliffe SIG or to join, contact Mary Carty ’74 by emailing RadcliffeSIG@gmail.com.

The Alumni Network for Harvard Women Special Interest Group (ANHW), was founded in early 2013 to connect women from all of Harvard’s Schools in order to serve one another as well as the greater community of women. As part of Commencement 2013, the ANHW hosted a book-signing event with Deb Copaken Kogan ’88, author of The Red Book. An interesting cross section of alumns came to the event and were able to hear Deb read from her novel and acquire a signed copy! For more information about ANHW, visit http://www.harvardwomen.net.
Thank You for your Support!

All donations to the Harvard College Women's Center are tax-deductible and eligible for Harvard College Fund class credit!

Please mail your check to:
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