Harvard College Women’s Center
2013-2014 Annual Report

HCWC
creating community
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.
HCWC 2013-14 by the Numbers...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendees at 2013-2014 HCWC events</td>
<td>1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total student visits during night hours (Mon-Wed, 6-10pm)</td>
<td>1634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total student meetings during night hours (Mon-Wed, 6-10pm)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Radcliffe Trust/Women's Center Community Fund grants given</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ART/WCCF grant funding awarded to student groups</td>
<td>$15560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCWC staff members (professional, graduate, and undergraduate)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posts to the HCWC Blog</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views of the HCWC Blog</td>
<td>7040+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fans of HCWC on Facebook</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followers of HCWC on Tumblr</td>
<td>3759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of views of HCWC website per day</td>
<td>50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student participants in the Radcliffe Mentor Program</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student participants in the WISTEM Mentor Program</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HCWC Interns

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, and working with a team. 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.

Back Row: Bex Kwan ’14, Shira Kogan ’14, Brianna Suslovic ’16, Aditi Chai ’15, Administrative Coordinator Bridget Duffy, Ceylon Auguste-Nelson ’16, Teresa Coda HDA ’14; Front Row: Outgoing Director Gina Helfrich, Yen Pham ’15, Ella Park-Chan ’16, Matt Stolz ’14/15, Jasmine Fernandez ’16

Interns advertise the HCWC at the annual Activities Fair

The staff bonds at an outing to Brooklyn Boulders in Somerville
Reflection on an Internship

It's hard to wrap my mind around how much working at the Harvard College Women’s Center (HCWC) has shaped me. When I first walked into the conference room for an interview three years ago, I had no idea what I was in for. At the time, I was looking for a paying job, and I happened to see a publicity email for HCWC internship applications. I was just beginning to think critically about gender in my life and was nursing a vague desire to make the world a more just place, so when I read the job description, I figured it could be a good fit.

In retrospect, the trajectory of my growth was mapped from the beginning of my HCWC career, even if I didn’t realize it at the time. I remember sitting in Gina’s office at the start of my sophomore year during a beginning of the semester check-in. She asked me if there was a specific skill that I wanted to develop in this internship. I replied, “I’d like to be able to facilitate conversations about gender.” In my mind, facilitation required a mastery of both content and dialogue; I wanted to become well-versed enough in thinking critically about gender that I was not just able to articulate my thoughts to a group, but help them articulate their thoughts to me.

What the sophomore version of myself never expected is for that goal to have been fulfilled so thoroughly. In the three years following that conversation, I found myself working continuously on the HCWC Gender 101 Workshops, from developing the objectives, content and structure, to reaching out to countless campus groups to offer it to them. I have been given the opportunity to rewrite the curriculum thrice, with three different teams, and then been supported in using the workshop to facilitate conversation after conversation after conversation. Now, having run Gender 101 workshops for nearly 40 Harvard organizations, it is remarkable to sense how my confidence and skill at my sophomore year goal, “facilitating conversations about gender,” has increased exponentially with the invaluable experience that the HCWC has given me.

Beyond becoming a stronger facilitator, this internship has challenged me to stay committed to a (now less vague) vision of a more just world. By holding me accountable to critical thought around my ideas and work, whether in a team meeting or a one on one conversation with a colleague, the HCWC has taught me to stay grounded in values yet imagine the sustained impact effective advocacy can have.

My work here has uncovered my passion for education and advocacy around gender justice, especially in communicating the need for it to folks who are new to anti-oppression dialogues, and I am hoping to pursue this professionally. After graduation, I will be pursuing a Masters in Social Work on the Community Organizing track at Hunter College in New York City and hope to build on the foundation that I have developed at the HCWC.

-Bex Kwan ’14
Co-Existing Self – Nov. 13

Acknowledging the intersectional nature of identities, the HWCW collaborated with the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations to create a space for students to share how their experiences and perspectives are influenced by the many ways in which their identities—including race, gender, class, and sexuality, among others—intersect. The interns of both the HWCW and the Foundation created a space that was intimate and felt safe for participants to share their experiences with the concepts of identity, privilege, passing and intersectionality. Those who spoke appreciated having a space to share their stories and having their often complicated experiences validated by their peers.

Women’s Leadership Mixer – Nov. 15

In an effort to foster collaboration and communication between the many people working on women’s and gender issues at Harvard, the Women’s Center hosted an informal mixer for campaign and organizational leaders. This Leadership Mixer allowed students interested in promoting gender equity to discover unexpected connections between their seemingly disparate organizations. These new-found connections helped foster a larger community of people interested in women’s issues. Participants appreciated the opportunity to get to know each other informally and share their enthusiasm for their organizations with their peers, and many left with plans to collaborate in exciting new ways in the future.

New England Women’s Center Conference – Nov. 16

One Saturday in mid-November, five HWCW undergraduate interns, Director Gina, and volunteer Katie Heimer attended the fourth annual New England Women’s Center Conference. Held this year at Boston University, the conference was a day-long series of workshops focused on how to build intern and staff skills to better run a women’s center. The conference was also a great opportunity for the HWCW to interact and build relationships with other area and campus women’s centers. Attendees from the HWCW were able to leave with skills in social media and consensus, in addition to more knowledge of Boston-area resources for women.

Thai Food and Tech – Nov. 20

In the intimate space of the Women’s Center Lounge, students gathered over delicious Thai food for a discussion about the experiences women have in the tech industry and the importance of increasing gender parity in the field. Panelists included Dr. Jeanne Ross of MIT and three members of the non-profit organization Girl Develop It, an international organization that works to provide affordable and accessible programs to women who want to learn software development through mentorship and hands-on instruction. Throughout the lively dialogue, the group discussed everything from the extensive and growing opportunities in the tech world to the challenges facing women in Computer Science, a field with classes that often have large gender disparities. The panelists also offered advice about the best ways to get involved in Computer Science and how to get hired in the industry. Attendees left excited, engaged, and informed about the opportunities in tech, with one student writing that their main takeaway from the event was that “women shouldn’t be scared of doing tech!” and another expressing that “tech is exciting! And the opportunities are growing.”
Female Faculty Campaign

Throughout the Fall Semester, HCWC interns Aditi, Bee, and Brianna worked to reach out to female faculty members on campus in order to ask them about their experiences in academia. Inspiring the campaign was a report presented by the FAS Standing Committee on Women, which presented the following findings: “As in years past, the percentage of senior (female faculty) varies tremendously by field: it is highest in Education (50%), Divinity (38%), and FAS Humanities (33%), with FAS Social Science (27%) and Public Health (23%) close behind. The percentage of senior (female faculty) remains stubbornly low across the sciences, including the Medical School (17%), FAS Natural Sciences (14%), and Engineering (14%).”

After reaching out to and collecting the stories of several female faculty members, the team drafted a blog post with the goals of increasing awareness of the many different experiences female faculty have, highlighting gender disparity in different departments and in academia as a whole, and giving female faculty members space to share their perspective on how gender has (or has not) shaped their career paths.

The final write-up centered around the experiences of Gita Gopinath, Professor of Economics, and Robin Bernstein, Professor of African & African American Studies and of Studies of Women, Gender & Sexuality, who demonstrate that there is no single experience shared by female faculty at Harvard.

Professor Gopinath didn’t believe that her gender had disproportionately influenced her experience in academia for better or for worse, but she did acknowledge that gender plays a role in the experience of many female students and faculty members in higher education, especially in traditionally male-dominated fields. Professor Bernstein, however, shared that her experiences both on- and off-campus at Harvard, and specifically of being Harvard faculty, are certainly affected by her gender, race, and oftentimes perceived sexuality and class.

Spring 2014 Events

Luncheon with Laverne Cox – Feb. 24

This winter, the Women’s Center had the opportunity to host the renowned actress and transgender activist Laverne Cox for an intimate luncheon discussion. Best known for playing the character Sophia in the Netflix original series Orange is the New Black, Ms. Cox was recently nominated for an Emmy for her role, an accomplishment that made her the first transgender person to be nominated for the prestigious award. Furthermore, Ms. Cox uses her fame to raise awareness of the plight of transgender people, a community that she notes often faces homelessness, unemployment, and violence as a result of being transgender. Conversation covered many topics, such as the importance of transgender representation in the media and why she believes in serving as a “possibility model” rather than a role model. Finally, she urged students to “stay in the love,” and reminded students of the importance of sharing their stories.

The New Black – Feb. 25

In collaboration with the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, the Women’s Center hosted a panel discussion surrounding the issues presented in the documentary The New Black. The film focuses on the ways in which race, religion, and sexuality intersect in people’s lived experiences by exploring the ways in which the black community is grappling with the issue of marriage equality.

The creators of the documentary offer the following: “the film documents activists, families and clergy on both sides of the campaign to legalize gay marriage and examines homophobia in the black community’s institutional pillar—the black church and reveals the Christian right wing’s strategy of exploiting this phenomenon in order to pursue an anti-gay political agenda. The New Black takes viewers into the pews and onto the streets and provides a seat at the kitchen table as it tells the story of the historic fight to win marriage equality in Maryland and charts the evolution of this divisive issue within the black community.”

After watching several clips from the documentary, a panel consisting of a cast member from the film and several student leaders discussed how diverse communities can effectively mobilize around contentious topics in order to enact social and political change.
Healthy Identities – Feb. 27

Recognizing the gendered way in which mental health is often discussed and understood, the Women’s Center partnered with the Freshman Dean’s Office to present “Healthy Identities,” a conversation led by Professor Mary Ruggie, who teaches courses on health policy, inequalities in healthcare, and the intersection of gender and health. Student attendees discussed the ways in which gender influences perceptions of different mental health illnesses, the ways that stigmas against mental health issues differ by gender, and the ways that gender bias appears both in mental health research and in cultural understandings of mental health. In particular, students discussed the gendered way in which depression, alcoholism, and eating disorders are understood as well as the effect these stereotypes have on individual people.

Women’s Week Highlight: Radcliffe Statues – Mar. 4

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.

Conceived as a public art installation to raise awareness of the rich and complex history of women at Harvard and Radcliffe, the Radcliffe Statues project brought to life Harvard’s gendered history and asked students, faculty, and passers-by in what ways the University is still affected by gender. Being positioned near such historic buildings as Memorial Hall, University Hall, and Massachusetts Hall, the project sought to bring this conversation into the spaces where much of Harvard’s gendered history was written.
Work-Life Balance – Apr. 4

In the welcoming and open space of the Office of Career Services, students and faculty kicked off their weekends with an engaging discussion on the professional, personal, and gender dynamics of life after graduation. The event began with a lecture given by Professor Elizabeth More, who led attendees through the historical background of discussions of work-life balance. The floor then opened to a group discussion that both explored how cultural perceptions of work-life balance have impacted students’ personal views and addressed specific examples of what students were excited and nervous about regarding work-life balance after graduation. Co-sponsored by the Senior Class Committee, the dialogue was especially relevant and valuable for the class that would be graduating in just two months! As one attendee noted, the event gave students the opportunity to talk “to people who are outside of your immediate friend group about these issues,” which they said was “important because they bring great perspectives and ideas” to the table.

Award for Achievement in Arts and Media:
Janelle Monáe – Apr. 16

This year, the Women’s Center was very excited to present the inaugural Award for Achievement in Arts and Media to Yard-test artist Janelle Monáe. This award seeks to acknowledge a prominent performer who tackles questions of identity—including sex, gender, and sexuality—in their performances. Throughout her career, Janelle Monáe has highlighted the important women in her life and inspired countless others to achieve excellence. In her acceptance speech for the award, Ms. Monáe discussed growing up in Kansas City, Kansas, and working in a service industry, as well as the support she received from her mother to pursue her dreams of performing. HCWC intern Jasmine Fernandez then interviewed Ms. Monáe regarding her identity and experiences working in the entertainment industry. The interview touched on everything from her working relationships with other artists and the images of the Android and Metropolis that are found throughout her work to her thoughts regarding the hypersexualization of black women and whether she considers herself a role model. The interview ended with Ms. Monáe taking questions from the audience, and interacting with every student who came to the ceremony.

Women’s Leadership Awards – Apr. 24

The 17th annual Harvard College Women’s Leadership Awards ceremony was held at the Charles Hotel, where over 80 students, administrators, faculty, and alumnae gathered to enjoy a cocktail reception, dinner, and stirring speeches from this year’s recipients. The ceremony is made possible by a generous endowment established by a gift from Terrie Fried Bloom ’75. The annual celebration helps the Women’s Center realize our mission of celebrating women who challenge, motivate, and inspire. Each year, the 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. This year, 54 seniors were nominated for the award. 25 students completed the application, and thus were considered for this prestigious honor.

This year’s winner, Amy Yin ’14, was selected for her outstanding advocacy for women entering the STEM fields; specifically computer science and technology. Amy co-founded an organization called Women in Computer Science with the goals of encouraging more women to enter the technical fields and creating opportunities and a network for women who choose to pursue a future in computer science and technology. Anne Madoff, the woman with whom Amy co-founded this organization, nominated Amy for the award with the following endorsement: “Amy is one of the most driven, enthusiastic, and courageous people I have met at Harvard. When presented with a challenge, she is guaranteed to find a solution. She has a talent for identifying others’ needs and matching them to resources while being both efficient and creative.” In addition, Amy took a year off from her studies in order to co-found a technology start-up in Paris, France, called Vapor Communications, Inc. After graduation, she will work as a full-time engineer at Facebook, bringing data access to developing nations. Kate Meakem ’14 was also celebrated as Honorable Mention in acknowledgment of her extensive work encouraging women to assume leadership roles, particularly through involvement with the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), Harvard College’s largest public service student organization. As the President of PBHA, Kate oversaw the successful execution of 86 different student-directed programs which comprised more than 1,400 volunteers and served more than 10,000 low-income people throughout Greater Boston.

This year’s professional award winner, Robin Chase, has been instrumental in the success of several technology start-ups around the world. She co-founded ZipCar, the largest carsharing company in the world; Buzzcar, a company that brings together car owners and drivers in a carsharing marketplace in France; and Veniam ‘Works, a vehicle mesh communications company based in Portugal. Additionally, Robin’s reach extends beyond the world of start-ups. Robin serves on the Board of the World Resources Institute, a global research organization that works toward sustaining a healthy environment, as well as on the Advisory Board of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s International Transport Forum, an intergovernmental organization spanning 54 member countries with the goal of shaping the transport policy agenda on a global level.
Traveling Art Show: “Belonging” – Apr. 25

Based in Annenberg Hall, Quincy House, and Eliot House and culminating in a reception in late Spring, the traveling art exhibition asked and answered the following important questions: where do you feel at home, and what makes you feel at home? Through this exhibit, the Women’s Center celebrated places that students feel belonging, welcome, and safety on our campus, and in doing so critically asked what we as an office can do to create a truly welcoming and inclusive environment for all students. The show included a variety of media, including photography, painted works, poetry, and prose.

Visit with Cherrie Moraga – Apr. 25

The Women’s Center was very fortunate to have the opportunity to host a luncheon with prominent artist and activist Cherrie Moraga, co-editor of the ground-breaking anthology This Bridge Called My Back: Radical Writings by Women of Color. A resident artist at Stanford University, Ms. Moraga was invited to Harvard to give the Nicholas Papadopoulos lecture in honor of the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Before delivering the lecture, Cherrie Moraga met with 20 student leaders in the Women’s Center. Conversation explored the possibilities and limits of higher education and what it means to have a queer family. Students were very excited to interact with such an important activist in an intimate setting, and a great conversation was had by all.

Candid Conversation – Apr. 26

During Harvard’s annual weekend for accepted students, the Harvard College Women’s Center opened its doors to admitted students, playfully referred to as “prefrosh,” providing space and snacks for a candid conversation with current students. Ten current students with diverse interests and backgrounds sat in the lounge for a semi-structured conversation that focused on answering the questions prefrosh had about life at Harvard. Their question answered, the prefrosh left excited about the prospect of joining the Harvard community in the coming years, and the students appreciated the ability to talk about their experiences in such an honest forum. All agreed that it is important for such an honest exchange to take place during what can be a very hectic weekend!

Swap ‘Til U Drop – May 5

Ending the year “in style,” the HCWC hosted our annual clothing swap, an event that helps in our mission of “creating community.” Because the swap is held during reading period, it is perfectly timed for seniors who are moving out and looking for a place to donate their clothes. This year, a collaboration with the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) and the Resource Efficiency Program (REPs), allowed for greater reach into the undergraduate houses, increasing the number of clothing donations significantly. After the event, we were able to donate the remaining 16 large bags of unwrapped clothing to Boomerangs, a local thrift shop benefitting the AIDS Action Committee.

Our Space

The Women’s Center offers different spaces suited to a variety of needs for students and student groups. Our lounge can accommodate up to 30 people and has couches, armchairs, floor pillows, and a plasma television with DVD player (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).

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. Groups that reserved the Women’s Center for meetings and events during the year include (but are not limited to): Alumnae/i Network for Harvard Women; Association of Black Harvard Women; Athena; Dharma; First Generation Students Union; G-Chat; Girlspot; Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations; International Women’s Rights Collective; Queer Students and Allies; Radcliffe Union of Students; Science Fiction Association; Sexual Health Education and Advocacy Throughout Harvard College; Speak Out Loud; Strong Women, Strong Girls; Sustained Dialogues; and Women’s leadership Conference.
HCWC Programs

Women’s Center Social Media Outreach

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 “Dialogue” 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 with one another.

In 2013-14, Dialogue interns created online space for student engagement with women’s and gender issues through six web portals: the HCWC website, our blog, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. Thanks to twenty posts by the undergraduate and graduate interns and guest posts from other Harvard College students, this year our blog generated over 7,040 views, including readership in over 103 countries. We added over 215 new followers on Twitter, as well as increased our Facebook “likes” to more than 915. 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 over 50 views per day.

Perhaps the most notable addition to the Women’s Center Social Media Outreach this year is the creation of a Tumblr called, “What Should We Call Women’s Centers?” This Tumblr was based on the popular blog “What Should We Call Me?” which proved to be effective at engaging large audiences. The Tumblr seeks to express the role Women’s Centers play on college campuses in two ways: first, through using animated GIF images as reactions to issues commonly faced in the Women’s Center space; second, by highlighting Women’s Centers on other college campuses and the work they are doing. In its first year, the blog accumulated over 3750 followers. This model allowed us to build relationships with other campus women’s centers and raise awareness of the issues that many women students face across different college campuses.

Leaders Forum

The Leaders Forum, a new program replacing the Women’s Cabinet, was designed to provide a space for dialogue and collaboration among student organizations on campus that work on women’s and gender issues. This was achieved by bringing leadership and other interested members of groups together about once a month for discussion of issues and best practices, with each meeting structured around a central theme or skill-building workshop.

The first Women’s Center Leaders Forum was held on October 20 in Ticknor Lounge. The topic of discussion at this forum was gender inclusivity and parity in organizational leadership, which pushed attendees to critically examine their own organizational leadership, their organizations’ reputations on campus, and ways to work toward inclusivity for people of all genders. Attendees discussed these questions both in small groups and with the larger group as a whole, allowing them to get to know each other and learn about each others’ obstacles and best practices. In a follow-up survey, an overwhelming majority of students agreed that the conversation was both very useful for getting acquainted with other student leaders and organizations and very effective at fostering an understanding of the factors that contribute to gender disparities in organizational leadership.

Building off of the conversation about organizational leadership in the first Leaders Forum, the second meeting focused on gender inclusivity in organizational membership. After a general discussion on inclusivity, what it looks like, and what benefits and drawbacks exist in relation to it, attendees broke into groups to discuss specific scenarios that could arise in the students’ organizations pertaining to gender inclusivity. The scenarios were designed to facilitate dialogue on two important topics relating to gender inclusivity: 1. the importance of word choice on event publicity, and 2. the importance of framing events in a way that includes time for individuals to share their preferred gender pronouns, as well as other inclusive practices. In feedback, participants responded that they would include “all genders welcome” on programming publicity in the future, and that they would consider meaningful cosponsorships in an effort to create inclusive environments. Participants also indicated that they would work to define and preserve safe spaces for their membership.
Our first meeting in the Spring Semester was particularly exciting. On February 5, leaders from a variety of organizations on campus—from Athena to PBHA to the Undergraduate Council—came together to discuss the exciting new Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center (formerly the Holyoke Center), which is scheduled to be fully renovated and open in 2018. We were joined by Associate Dean of Student Life David Friedrich, who solicited feedback and ideas from Leaders Forum attendees regarding the new Center, including what resources they’d like to see included. While enjoying pizza and discussing everything from a nap-room to an arts space, students shared their unique perspectives on what the form and function of this new campus center could be, and how it could serve to enrich the overall student experience.

Finally, we wrapped up the inaugural year of the Leaders Forum with a workshop on using social media to create an organizational presence that is both engaging and inclusive. Recognizing the constantly growing importance of digital organizing and communication, students wanted a training on best practices for engaging their memberships. To this end, we invited Megan Kearns, a feminist vegan blogger and freelance writer, to present. Our interns met Megan at the New England Women’s Center Conference where she facilitated a workshop titled “Creating Safer Spaces Online & Through Social Media.” The conversation she led with our Leaders Forum attendees focused on using social media to build relationships, brand an organization, and reach out to members. The unique features of different platforms were discussed, as well as how to use them effectively. Furthermore, the conversation explored privilege, online activism, and possible implementations of ground rules and trigger warnings when facilitating online conversations between several individuals or groups who may not know each other. The workshop was fun and informational, and students agree that it will inform their future social media use.

House Representatives

This year, in an effort to work towards a larger campus dialogue around women’s and gender issues, the Women’s Center piloted an exciting new program to extend our reach into the undergraduate houses called House Representatives. The House Representative position is designed for sophomores, juniors and seniors (but open to eager juniors). The initial campaign for the 2012-2013 academic year and was able to make a greater impact on the student body. In the 2013-2014 school year, G-Chat became a recognized organization under the Office of Student Life. From partnering with other groups to planning events to hosting discussions with self-help experts, we were able to spread our mission and positively impact a significant number of people this year.

Implementing a new executive board, G-Chat was able to continue its success in the 2013-2014 school year. Heading into the 2014-2015 school year, it is currently comprised of 4 juniors and seniors who share the advertising and discussion leadership responsibilities.

With this board, we were able to continue to have effective meetings full of interesting discussions and snacks for participants. Because we had a core group of attendees, we were able to have productive discussions that touched upon more general issues such as blockings, concentrations and Harvard’s social scene, as well as more timely issues pertaining to Janelle Monáe as a female role model performing at Yardfest, the sexual assault policies at Harvard and other universities, and current statistics regarding salaries for men and women in the workforce.

G-Chat First Year Women’s Discussion Group

The mission of Harvard 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 Celislan ‘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 first-year women students. 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 the 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. In the 2013-2014 school year, G-Chat became a recognized organization under the Office of Student Life. From partnering with other groups to planning events to hosting discussions with self-help experts, we were able to spread our mission and positively impact a significant number of people this year.

This year, a core group of attendees, we were able to have productive discussions that touched upon more general issues such as blockings, concentrations and Harvard’s social scene, as well as more timely issues pertaining to Janelle Monáe as a female role model performing at Yardfest, the sexual assault policies at Harvard and other universities, and current statistics regarding salaries for men and women in the workforce.

Our two best events this year came through partnerships with self-love expert Alexis Meads and the American Association of University Women. In the fall, we had a “Bring a Friend” event that showcased Alexis Meads, who told us her story and gave tips for helping women to empower themselves. After she gave some examples from her college days, attendees shared their own experiences, which led to a very insightful conversation. We also ran out of space in the Women’s Center Lounge, making this one of our best-attended events ever!

During the Equal Pay Day event in the spring, we discussed the statistics regarding the differences between men’s and women’s salaries across multiple industries. We had an interesting conversation about the fields that women and men tend to pursue, even thinking about our own families. We also spoke about Lean In and the impact that Sheryl Sandberg has made in the broader discussion of women in the workplace, which added another dimension to the conversation.

Overall, we couldn’t be happier about G-Chat’s successes this year. Girls forged friendships with others whom they likely would not have met outside the group and we interacted with numerous first-year women. Those who attended the group regularly consider G-Chat to be a safe space that they look forward to and have expressed interest in maintaining a relationship with the group either formally or informally in the future. Now that we are an official club, G-Chat has a bright future with more access to the many perks that the Office of Student Life offers on campus. We look forward to seeing our new leadership thrive and continue the mission, positively impacting the first-year experience!
Gender 101: Beyond the Binary Workshops

This year, HCWC interns performed 26 Gender 101 trainings to student groups and administrative offices seeking to become more skilled in navigating gender diversity and more welcoming to all genders. The goal of the Gender 101 training is to build an awareness of the diversity of gender identities on campus, to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all genders that encourages dialogue and diversity, and to increase the capacity of individuals and organizations to be respectful and understanding of gender diversity. Each training lasted for approximately one hour and included interactive presentations to help participants internalize the complexity of gender and gain an understanding of gender diversity on the Harvard campus and around the world. Participants learned about many of the ways in which the gender binary is presented in media, society, the workplace, and on campus and discussed ways to complicate and deconstruct limiting narratives about gender expression and identity.

Sex (n.) - The classification of people as male or female. At birth, infants are assigned a sex usually based on their genitals, and sometimes on a combination of bodily characteristics also including their chromosomes, hormones, and internal reproductive organs

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 assumes that everyone is either male or female, and implies that this* 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 Leaders Forum, 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.

The Harvard College Women’s Center awards an average of 35 ART/WCCF grants to student initiatives annually. Currently, we are able to fund about 50% of the requests we receive each year. In 2013-2014, a total of 35 grants totaling $15,560 were awarded to 27 different student groups. Here is just one of the many great projects we supported:

Project Funded: Latina Empowerment and Development Conference

The seventh Annual Latina Empowerment And Development (LEAD) Conference was a one-day event that addressed women’s issues by empowering and expanding the career development of Latinas. Through this conference, we striving to generate a network of Latina women with diverse backgrounds, interests, and skills in order to expand opportunities for Latinas in the increasingly competitive professional world. Additionally, the LEAD Conference was composed of different activities throughout the day, including panels of prestigious Latina speakers, workshops that addressed specific issues pertaining to young Latinas, and networking sessions among the conference attendees and speakers. All of these events and activities fostered a sense of empowerment and helped continue to build the network of professional and successful Latinas that we need to achieve success. This year, our Conference Committee remained committed to the challenge of deepening both the breadth and content of this year’s conference, a commitment that was reflected in the programming put forth in the conference.

Radcliffe Mentor Program

Now in its 29th year, in 2013-14 the Radcliffe Mentor Program (RMP) matched 105 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 program strives to support students through the fostering of significant relationships outside of the “Harvard bubble.” As such, the emphasis of the program continues to be driven by the pairs themselves: their needs, goals, and mutual interests.

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 2013-14 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 ’86.

We know that alumnae participation as a mentor makes a difference in the lives of students. One of our 2013-2014 student mentees had this to say about her Radcliffe mentor: “My mentor helped give me the confidence to continue being premed even when I was beginning to lose hope last semester. She was reassuring and offered ways in which I could continue my passion for music along with a career in medicine. She even gave me a comprehensive copy of her book on music and medicine. She has looked out for me like a mother—even offering me summer storage space—and has offered me so many exciting opportunities in music and medicine.”

Another 2013-2014 student mentee reflected: “I was able to meet and network with so many professionals from the Boston/Cambridge area I never would have had the chance to meet otherwise! I loved getting the chance to see so many different aspects of psychology and all the different career paths, as well as being able to hear about what it’s like from those who actually work in the field on a daily basis.”

Finally, about the importance of her mentor, another student mentee expressed: “My mentor is amazing. She’s so sweet, and is always inviting me over to her house for lunch and outings and such. I got really sick last semester and ended up in the hospital, and she came and visited me and helped me tremendously while I was recovering back on campus. She said that I’m officially now her honorary niece which is such a privilege and a perfect way to describe our relationship with each other. My parents and brother are so far away...but having my mentor so nearby and so friendly and open makes me truly feel like I do have family in the area that I can turn to whenever I need help, whenever I’m confused about something, or just when I want someone to talk to and share good news.”

Students and mentors meet each other at the RMP Kick-Off Event
Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (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 math) with graduate student mentors and undergraduate participants with graduate women mentors. 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 2013-2014 the WISTEM program matched 64 undergraduate participants with graduate women mentors.

One end-of-year survey, answered by 42 participants, approximately half of whom were mentors and half mentees, provided an encouraging picture of the impact of the program. We noted a number of positive outcomes for WISTEM program participants: while more than half (55%) of respondents indicated that they had experienced doubts at some point about staying in a STEM field, almost all (98%) of them indicated that they planned to continue studying or pursuing professional opportunities in a STEM field after participating in the program. 28% reported an increased sense of belonging in their field of study compared to when they first joined WISTEM, and 62% feel like their participation in WISTEM makes a positive impact on the climate for women in STEM fields. Even more encouraging, 71% of respondents indicated that their WISTEM mentoring relationship had motivated them to seek out other, informal mentoring relationships, thereby advancing the network of support amongst women scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.

Perhaps the best testament to the effectiveness of WISTEM comes from the undergraduate mentees’ reflections:

"Mentoring relationships are important to have, especially to motivate women to stay in fields like STEM where we are underrepresented. More mentoring relationships can lead to more inspiration and sense of community around a certain profession."—Class of 2017 WISTEM mentee

"Because I realized how helpful it can be to have someone who is going through things that I may go through in the future, I am now motivated to seek out mentoring relationships with those who are in my field of interest.”—Class of 2017 WISTEM mentee

Finally, the WISTEM Mentor Program has a positive impact not only on undergraduate mentees, but on graduate student mentors as well. One mentor offers the following: “The WISTEM program has been absolutely wonderful, and I have loved getting to know and help all the wonderful mentees I have had over the past few years! Not only do I feel I have made a positive impact on the undergraduates I have been paired with, but it has been a wonderful experience for me, too, especially as I am looking towards being a professor.”—WISTEM mentor

Administrative Staff

Dr. Gina Helfrich, Outgoing 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.

Keith Grubb, Program Coordinator

Keith Grubb works with the interns and staff to make certain their programmatic ideas around issues of identity become reality. He is responsible for working with students, organizations, and offices on campus that hope to collaborate on programming with the HCWC. To this end, Keith is particularly interested in exploring how women’s and gender issues vary across different communities, especially with respect to race, sexuality, class, and ability. Having worked as an undergraduate intern at the HCWC for three years, Keith is very excited to return to the Women’s Center in this new capacity.
Alumnae Involvement

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

Each year, the HCWC opens its doors to alums returning to campus for Radcliffe and Harvard class reunions. In May 2014, despite that there were no official class-specific reunion events held in our space, we were pleased to welcome individual members of the Class of 1949 and the Class of 1954 to the Women’s Center. 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. For more information about the Radcliffe SIG or to join, contact Mary Carty ’74 by emailing RadcliffeSIG@gmail.com.

The Alumnae 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 2014, the ANHW hosted “Surviving Silence” in the Women’s Center. The event began with a panel of people working to end sexual assault on University campuses, including Mia Karvonides, JD, Harvard University Title IX Officer; Wendy Murphy, JD; “Godmother of Title IX” Bernice Sandler; Pierre Berastain AB ’10, MDiv ’14, and moderator Shana Natelson, of Speak About It. After the panel, there was time for individuals to discuss and process their personal experiences of sexual assault and harassment in a setting that was engaging and supportive. For more information about ANHW, visit http://www.harvardwomensig.com.

The Radcliffe Club of San Francisco, despite their physical distance from Cambridge, maintains a close relationship with the Women’s Center and provides very generous support to our programs, including funding for our Graduate Internship for Communications and Outreach, which is named in their honor. For more information, visit http://www.radcliffeclubsf.org.

If you or others you know are alums of Radcliffe or Harvard, we invite you to be part of our community! You are welcome to attend any of our events, which you can find out about by joining our weekly email list. The Women’s Center also maintains an “Alumni & Friends” email list that provides updates on life at the HCWC two to three times per year. To join either (or both) of our email lists, visit us on the web (http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu) or email us (hcwc@fas.harvard.edu).

Class of 2014 Interns

Shira Kogan

After graduation, Shira is heading to San Francisco and entering the July class of the LinkedIn Global Sales Organization University Program (GSO University for short). Through this program, she will gain experience in a variety of different departments of the business, including Recruiting, Customer Advocacy, and Sales Development. She will also have the opportunity to pursue an “Open Elective Rotation” position, such as in the LinkedIn for Good Department, which works with non-profit organizations.

Bex Kwan

Bex is heading to New York City to pursue a Masters in Social Work on the Community Organizing track at Hunter College. Still making performances, Bex hopes to build on their experience at the Harvard College Women’s Center to become an artist-educator around issues of gender justice.

Undergraduate Interns: Shira Kogan ’14; Bex Kwan ’14; Matt Stolz ’14’15; Aditi Ghai ’15; Yen Pham ’15; Ceylon Auguste-Nelson ’16; Jasmine Fernandez ’16; Ella Park-Chan ’16; Brianna Suslovic ’16

Staff: Gina Helfrich, Outgoing Director

Bridge Duffy, Administrative Coordinator

Keith Grubb, Program Coordinator

Entela Nako, WISTEM Program Coordinator

Graduate Interns: Teresa Coda HDS ’14, Graduate Intern for Administration and Special Projects

Yubing Xia HKS ’14, Radcliffe Club of San Francisco Graduate Intern for Communications and Outreach

Attendees at the Alumnae/i Network for Harvard Women Reunion event “Surviving Silence” discuss title IX legislation and activism against sexual assault.
Support Our Work

The Harvard College Women’s Center Needs Your Support!

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

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

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

Opportunities to Support the Harvard College Women’s Center:

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

To make a donation to the Women's Center, visit us online: [http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/support](http://hcwc.fas.harvard.edu/support)

Or, tear off this page at the perforation, fill it out, and mail it to the address on the reverse side.

I want to support the important work of the Harvard College Women's Center. Enclosed is my contribution of $_________. Please apply my donation to the following fund:

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

Name (please print): ____________________________________________ Class year: ___________
Address: ____________________________________________ City, State, Zip: ___________
Email: ______________________________________________________

I want to receive occasional updates via the HCWC Alumni & Friends email list: [ ] Yes [ ] No

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:
Harvard College Women’s Center
Canaday Hall, B Entry
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please make checks out to “Harvard College.”
We will send you a gift acknowledgment promptly and inform the Harvard Alumni Association of your generous support.

Thank You for your Support!