



Dr. Luann Dummer

LUANN DUMMER CENTER FOR WOMEN 1993 - 2018: 25 YEARS

Dr. Luann Dummer, (1942-1992), a longtime faculty member at the University of St. Thomas, bequeathed an endowment to create a Women's Center on campus. Dr. Dummer came to St. Thomas in 1971 and was the first female chairperson of the Department of English, serving from 1976-1988. She was the first director of the Women's Studies program at UST, and was a co-founder of ACTC Women's Studies Program. Dr. Dummer was elected Professor of the Year in 1989.

As we celebrate the **25th year of the Luann Dummer Center for Women**, the needs forecasted by Dr. Luann Dummer more than two decades ago are more relevant than ever.

Dr. Dummer's vision for the Center as a space to bolster, empower, support and embolden women's voices as well as provide a venue for open and helpful dialogue remains true to course.

The theme for 2018-2019 is **Women in Motion**, an idea Dr. Dummer encapsulated with the opening of the Women's Center.

On our 25th year, we are still gaining momentum with our dynamic programs, activities and offerings.

We welcome you to join us!



**Luann Dummer
Center For Women
1993-2018**

A magazine of the University of St. Thomas Luann Dummer Center for Women, the University Advocates for Women and Equity, and the Women's Studies Program

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Women in Motion: Pressing Forward to the Future



Dr. Young-ok An, LDCW; English and Women's Studies

2018 is our 25th anniversary year!

Thanks to the endowment bequeathed by the late Dr. Luann Dummer, the LDCW has been fulfilling its mission to be a vibrant, multi-faceted, and fully engaged place on campus. The pioneering spirits of Dr. Dummer and the first executive advisor, the late Dr. Pauline Lambert, inspire us to work to continue addressing the needs and aspirations of women and underrepresented groups of the University and beyond. We continue to work to serve the campus community, now with a full array of programs, while coordinating with other branches on campus to advance the common good.

Serving as an integral place for feminism and diversity on campus, we operate with the guiding question: **"What are the gaps on campus that the LDCW can fill? What are the things the LDCW is uniquely capable of doing?"** We prioritize our work responding to important issues relative to

women and underrepresented groups in a timely manner.

"Feminism for all," a motto our student group adopted on their way to the Women's March 2017, resonates deeply with us.

The annual theme for our 2018-19 activities is **"Women in Motion"**: through our signature women's history lecture, the Feminist Friday series, Book Circle discussions, and many programs in collaboration with other branches on

campus, we will highlight various facets of the topic, such as athleticism, political movements, migration and mobility.

We are delighted to announce our 2019 speaker: Ann Bancroft, explorer, athlete, environmentalist, and social activist.

We at the LDCW will be in motion as well. To be effective in serving the full range of our constituents, we need to be nimble as well as steadfast. These days, we are inundated with national and local news that touches upon women's and gender-related issues. As recently as late September, the nation was riveted by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's





testimony and sexual assault allegations against the then-nominee for the Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh. The whole experience reminded us of watching Dr. Anita Hill's testimony concerning the now-Justice Clarence Thomas's sexual harassment about twenty-five years ago, and the national conversation it inspired. This September, feminists expressed frustration with the ways in which women and their testimonies were treated, asking, **"Have we made real progress in handling sexual misconduct and assault?"**

The LDCW, working with Emily Erickson, has been facilitating dialogues on this question. We will continue to explore the ramifications of the issue and find ways to educate ourselves about them.

If you feel that we need to have more informed representatives in Congress and the Senate and among our political leaders, we will soon have an opportunity to have a say: the

midterm election provides us with a chance to exercise our civic right and duty. Let's make this occasion count. Midterm elections have a notoriously low rate of participation, especially by younger voters. If we want to make changes, if we want to change the national conversations on many important social issues, this is the opportunity we should not miss. The LDCW has been participating in the voter registration drive, and **we will make every effort to educate and inspire people, especially students, to vote.**

Internally, in the fall, the advisory board is engaged with the selection process for the next director of the Center.

For me, serving the LDCW's directorship has been a great honor. Following in the footsteps of Drs. Meg Wilkes-Karraker, Brenda Powell, Debra Petersen, Corri Carvalho, I have been honored to work constantly to keep the LDCW moving in the direction

of fulfilling the Center's mission. I'm looking forward to working with the next director for the next chapter of the Center.

Also, we have just filled four seats that were vacated by outgoing members: Liz Dusol, Carey Winkler, Keith Pille, and Brittany Stojavljevic. **Thank you for your immeasurable work over the years!** And I welcome Christi Burdick-Travis, Talia Nadir, Alexis Easley, Maria Helena Bultrago Cohoon to the existing board, comprised of Paddy Satzer, Manuela Hill-Munoz, Kari Zimmerman, Angela High-Pippert, Vanessa Cornet-Murtada, Abby Heller, Sue Myers (ex officio), and Ann Johnson (ex officio).

I'd like to express my thanks to our staffer, Christine Balsley, for all her invaluable work for the Center; it would be only fitting to acknowledge here her work for this issue of *Many Voices*. Also, I'm very proud of our student team, Kendra Tillberry (grad FemCom facilitator), Jayda Pounds, Danielle Wong, Kaitlyn Spratt, Sadie Pedersen, and Anna Tillotson.



LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

THE MAKING OF MUSIC FOR PEACE

September 28



Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger

Dr. Schmalenberger's presentation, "The Making of Music for Peace" discussed her most recent collaborative endeavor to feature the sacred jazz of Mary Lou Williams. **Supported by a grant from the LDCW** and performed this past February in the Aquinas Chapel, this project featured new arrangements by Laura Caviani and Kari Musil and performance by the Swing Sisterhood Big Band.

Musicologist Sarah Schmalenberger teaches courses in music history as well as studio horn at the University of St. Thomas. Her published research address a wide range of topics, from Frank Zappa to the medical well-being of women musicians treated for breast cancer, to Black American women in concert music traditions. Currently on sabbatical leave to launch an innovative study on female brass players, Schmalenberger also hopes to publish her memoir on music and resilience.



Dr. Schmalenberger compares the original "Music for Peace" with the updated version arranged this past winter.

TELLING IT WHOLE

October 19



Sherrie Fernandez-Williams

Fernandez-Williams led a stirring workshop where participants learned how to craft their personal narrative, launching a "Tell Your Story" campaign that will continue throughout the year.

With time and through intentional exploration, we grow in self-awareness. Our sense of purpose becomes defined and our actions, congruent with the people we aspire to be. We discover a voice and we gain the courage to speak, do, and become. We become the heroes we've been waiting for and we are gratified! To be human is to be a gallant and impressive creature. As true as it may be, this is only part of the whole human. Other parts may be complicated, untenable, or bewildering. Through attempting to enter these parts, a layered story begins to form, making real connection possible where perceptions adjust and empathy gets planted in fertile ground. **Our stories can change the world, especially when we tell them whole.**

Sherrie Fernandez-Williams is author of *Soft: A Memoir*. Her poems and essays can be found in both literary journals and anthologies. Along with writing, she is an arts administrator and facilitates creative writing workshops. Fernandez-Williams discovered her need for words in Brooklyn, New York, where she was born and raised, but she "grew up" as a writer in the Twin Cities. She lives in St. Paul with her wife, Dr. Buffy Smith.

LDCW FEMINIST FRIDAY TALKS

ADVICE FROM A MENTEE: A REFLECTION ON WOMEN SUCCEEDING IN LAW AND POLITICS

November 2



Morgan Schreurs

Alumna Morgan Schreurs returned to share her experiences in law and politics since graduating from UST in 2015. Her presentation touched on themes of representation and mentorship and included commentary on #MeToo, the Trump Administration, and other aspects of the current cultural and political context. Consistent with this year's theme of "Women in Motion," **Morgan reflected on how crucial mentorship has been to her advancement** and offered suggestions about how to support women and gender non-conforming students as she was supported during her time at UST.

Morgan Schreurs is an Associate at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C.



Ms. Schreurs with Eric Holder, former Attorney General for President Barack Obama.

EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY: A FEMALE VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE

November 30



Molly White

Joining the military at the young age of 19, right out of high school, White had very little idea what was ahead of her. She had seen military movies and had family members that served so she thought she knew what she was getting into, but in reality, she had no clue. Through multiple deployments and trainings, White's military experience has taught her about many realities she never thought she would face. She is eager, and honored, to share her story and life-learned lessons as a female veteran.



Students mingle, enjoy chocolate treats, and even catch up on their feminist literature at the 2018 Fall Open House & Chocolate Reception.

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



Dr. Susan Myers
*Chair of Women's Studies,
Theology Department*

The spring 2018 UST graduating class included another group of amazing Women's Studies majors and minors. Congratulations to majors Kya Abernathy and Camille Fredin, and to minors Mackenzie Garrett, Natasha Elmergreen, Kayla Grythe, Maggie Huettl, Maggie Johnson, Diamond Patrick, Lindsay Scribner, Rachel Smith, and Kalley Turner on your many accomplishments! Best wishes in all that you do.

There are several significant changes in the offing for the Women's Studies program, changes that I hope will allow us to fulfill our mission more fully and increase our commitment to academic advances in the field. Because we are awaiting official approval for decisions, I won't say more now, but please stay tuned!

This summer and fall have seen disheartening revelations in the news every day, including truly horrifying stories of sexual abuse, harassment, child molestation, and gender inequality. Many years ago, I began working with a sexual assault center to respond to the needs of individuals (mostly, but not exclusively, women) who had been sexually assaulted. Over the years, I have volunteered with different organizations in different states and added advocacy for victims of domestic abuse and of

prostitution to my earlier focus on sexual assault.

The first time I underwent training with an advocacy organization, I remember the facilitator asking the group what we as individuals would do if we were ever assaulted. Would we report? Would we go public? I remember thinking that I hoped I would report the crime, but also aware of how often victims of gender-based violence are often revictimized and blamed. Indeed, not a single person in the group answered in the affirmative. It's just too risky.

And so it is with great admiration that I witness the courage of the survivors of sexual abuse, harassment, and inequality coming forward, whether they experienced clergy sexual abuse, abuse by powerful individuals in the news and entertainment industries, or whether they are calling out inequalities in their professions.

All of these types of violence are the direct result of an abuse of power. Sexual assault, sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment—all are evidence of a misuse of power. The reality is that the numbers and types of abuse haven't changed much over recent decades. What has changed is that we are talking about the abuse more openly—although there is still much that remains hidden. The hope is that by talking and taking action, we can stop the reality of abuse. Let's take the next step and work to dismantle systems that keep people in power over others (as opposed to systems that allow us to empower one another). By implementing this inherently feminist vision, we can make abuse less likely, and can bring abusers to account. It will not end the reality of abuse, which will continue as long

as there are flawed human beings living in the world. But it will remove the structures that keep such acts, like mushrooms in a cave, flourishing in the darkness. This vision gives me hope.

I am writing this shortly after the United States has engaged in two days of national mourning for towering figures in American culture: Aretha Franklin and John McCain. Their funerals capped a week of honoring each of these figures, and the style of send-off for each could not have been more different. And yet in many ways, the funerals seemed to echo one another. Just as Aretha Franklin demanded R-E-S-P-E-C-T, and John McCain defended the principles of democracy and decency, those who eulogized them spoke of common (and enduring) themes: love, courage, character, dignity, integrity, and principle. Both of these individuals exercised power in their own ways, but often it was a power from within rather than an exertion of power over others. That they are recognized and lauded for their refusal to be pushed around or to bully others also gives me hope.

Neither the Queen of Soul nor the Lion of the Senate was a perfect person. They had integrity, but they also had imperfections. And we know that women do NOT always get respect while the country's (or state's or region's) governance does NOT always adequately reflect society. Our government, like each of us, has sometimes acted in ways noble and upright, but has also perpetrated crimes. Sometimes we have failed to live according to our own aspirations. Yet we are all in this together. My hope is that we always challenge ourselves and one another to live up to our ideals of equality, dignity, and yes, R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

REPORT ON THE UAWWE

(University Advocates for Women and Equity)



Dr. Jessica Hodge

*Chair, UAWWE Coordinating Council
Department of Sociology & Criminal
Justice*

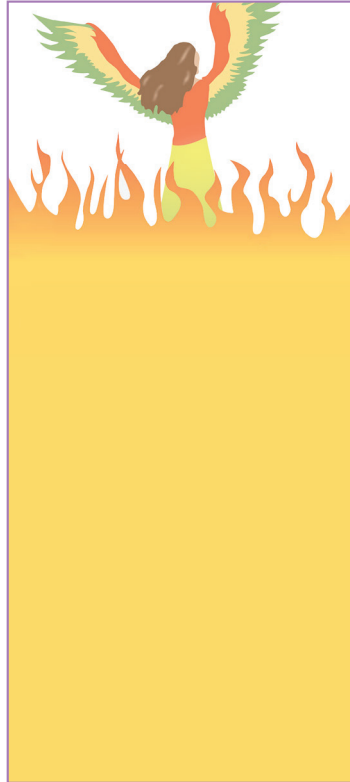
Last spring, we held our annual Spring Reception in which we celebrated the many accomplishments across campus related to the mission of the UAWWE and honored the recipients of our signature awards:

GOOD SISTER AWARD

Megan Arriola
(graduate student, Law School)
Paige Hietpas
(undergraduate student, double-major: Justice and Peace Studies; Environmental Studies; Spanish minor)
Cassandra Marshall
(Physical Plant Department)

PAULINE LAMBERT ADVOCACY AWARD

Emily Erickson
(Sexual Misconduct Prevention Program Director)
Divine Zheng
(undergraduate student, Justice & Peace Studies major)
Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger
(Music Department)



SISTER PAT KOWALSKI MEMORIAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Abby Heller
(undergraduate student,
Neuroscience major)
Dakota Hoska
(graduate student,
M.A. in Art History)

SAPIENTIA AWARD

Deborah Honore
(undergraduate student, double major: Justice & Peace Studies; Communication & Journalism)
Keith Pille
(graduate student,
M.A. in Art History)
Rachel Pritzl
(undergraduate student, Communication & Journalism major)

We will be seeking nominations in the spring for this year's awards, so please keep an eye out for that announcement. We strive to honor the exceptional work being done by students, staff and faculty across the university!

UAWWE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UAWWE FALL RECEPTION AND WELCOME

THURSDAY OCTOBER 11TH
4:00-5:00 pm | McNeely Hall 100.
This event was particularly focused on welcoming new employees on campus but was also open to everyone who supports the UAWWE mission. Refreshments were served and good company was enjoyed!

UAWWE COORDINATING COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

We will be seeking nominations for openings on the Coordinating Council this fall. If you or someone you know has a passion for issues affecting women at St. Thomas, please consider getting involved in the UAWWE Coordinating Council. There is information in the Newsroom and a call for nominations.

For more information about the UAWWE, please visit www.stthomas.edu/uawe/ or send an email to uawe@stthomas.edu.



GREETINGS FROM QSA!

Queer-Straight Alliance is proud to have wrapped up another eventful semester!

We were fortunate to kick off the semester with the event "Allyship Across the Color-line" in collaboration with other clubs on campus including ASIA, HOLA, and BESA.

It was an informative and great event for promoting allyship among different identity groups on campus and we look forward to doing it again this spring.

Our next event was an outing to go see the movie "Love, Simon." We had awesome attendance and lots of positive feedback, and we are very grateful to SDIS and DAB for helping us put on such a fun and meaningful event.

We then facilitated a project to make blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to youth in hospitals. Again, we had great attendance and are grateful to everyone who came out to support us.

JOIN US!

**QSA meets
Thursdays
5:30-6:30 pm
in OEC 206!**

In May, we hosted our Spring Pride Dance in ASC. We had a great time and will be hosting our Fall Pride Dance. Stay tuned for more details!

We ended our busy year with the Tommies Unspoken project. **We placed boxes around campus and tabled in ASC, asking people to anonymously write their secrets on index cards.** We then collected

all the secrets and displayed them in the OSF Library at the end of May. It was powerful to see the things that Tommies were thinking about but not talking about, and it was great to end our year on such an impactful note.

We are very excited for the upcoming year and would like to invite you to our meetings every Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm in OEC 206.

TOMMIES | UNSPOKEN

Hi from QSA, the university's Queer Straight Alliance!
We are inviting students to anonymously share their thoughts on their gender or sexual orientation, race, mental health, and/or any other issues surrounding a student's personal identity that they otherwise would not openly share.

Collection boxes will be out between Tuesday, April 17th through Friday, April 27th, with the final display from April 30th through May 4th in the library. Collection boxes will be emptied regularly to maintain the security of submissions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email qsa@stthomas.edu

Drop off locations

- Student Diversity and Inclusion Services ASC 224
- Luann Dummer Center for Women OEC 103
- Psychology Department JRC LL
- Campus Life Office
- Create[Space]
- Library Tech Help Desk
- Wellness Center MHC 355
- Koch Desk

-QSA E-board

INTRODUCING: HOURS WITH EMILY



Emily Erickson

Sexual Misconduct Prevention Program Director

MONDAYS: 3:00 - 4:00 PM IN THE LDCW

Come Talk Prevention!

Emily Erickson oversees **sexual violence prevention efforts** at the University of St. Thomas and is holding **open office hours at the LDCW** each week this fall. This is an opportunity for students, staff or faculty to ask questions, give feedback, or just chat about the University's prevention efforts.

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT?

SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS
ONE-TO-ONE ADVOCATE SUPPORT

♦ FREE ♦
♦ CONFIDENTIAL ♦

**MONDAYS
6PM-7:30PM
ASC 233**

**DROP-IN
(NO APPOINTMENT
REQUIRED)**

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Questions? Contact Emily Erickson
eric0261@stthomas.edu

Violence Prevention and Awareness | St. Thomas | SJC | FORWARD

Here are examples of what you could bring up:

- Writing a paper about sexual assault on college campuses and want recommendations for resources or research?
- Want to learn more about what the University Taskforce on Violence Prevention and Response is up to?
- **Have an idea for a potential event collaboration?** Some of our most well-attended events were co-sponsored by students and faculty!
- Interested in incorporating sexual violence into your classroom next semester?
- **Have feedback about the online sexual misconduct training for students or staff and faculty?**
- Have feedback or questions about the St. Thomas support group for survivors?
- Learn more about the *new* workshop series open to students interested in engaging in Violence Prevention: Voices Against Violence.
- **Chat with Emily about presenting to your class or group.**
- Want to learn more about volunteer or internship opportunities to serve sexual violence victim/survivors?
- Interested in working in the field of sexual violence prevention or response?
- Want a board game recommendation? (Not SV related, but Emily loves board games)
- Have a book recommendation for post-apocalyptic or speculative fiction written by women or queer authors? (Also not SV related, but I'm always looking for recommendations)
- And more!

GRADUATE FEMINIST COMMUNITY (FEMCOM)



Kendra Tillberry
*Creative Writing & Publishing
Graduate Student*

Be part of a community where you are valued for who you are.

Graduate students are invited to join the Graduate Feminist Community or FemCom, modeled after the successful undergraduate FemCom student group. **Build connections with other students across disciplines who are interested in making our campus more gender equitable and welcoming to all people.**

Through the community we build together, we will be able to bring speakers to present on critical and compelling topics, advocate for changes at the University of St. Thomas, and support each other's academic, personal and professional growth.

This group is member-led and welcomes all graduate students.

We seek to be an accessible group, so please let me know if there are any accommodations we can make.

Sign up to be on our contact list by sending your email address to Kendra Tillberry at till4753@stthomas.edu. Once you sign up, we will contact you about future events and opportunities to engage with Grad FemCom.

I hope you join Graduate FemCom and be part of the movement!

LOOKING FORWARD: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2019



Our 2019 Women's History Speaker will be **Ann Bancroft**, Premiere Female Adventurer and Polar Explorer, and the first woman in history to cross the ice to the North and South Poles. Bancroft's passion for polar adventures is matched by her enthusiasm for teaching children. Her non-profit, the Ann Bancroft Foundation, celebrates the existing and potential achievements of women and girls. She has been featured in *Remarkable Women of the Twentieth Century* (1998); inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (1995); named Ms. magazine's "Woman of the Year" (1987); and most recently appeared in the documentary "Ennis' Gift," where she discusses her dyslexia.

With Bancroft's polar expeditions have come severe tests of teamwork and leadership, as well as opportunities to shatter female stereotypes.

**ANN BANCROFT WILL BE SPEAKING
ON MARCH 7, 2019 IN THE OEC AUDITORIUM.**

UNDERGRADUATE FEMINIST COMMUNITY (FEMCOM)

Feminist Community (or **FemCom** as we like to call it) is an activist-based club that strives to create respect, equality, and diversity within the St. Thomas community. Supported and guided by the Luann Dummer Center for Women, FemCom is led by and composed of students. Our members are from every major, grade level, and background.

We are passionate about issues of race, sexuality, gender, socioeconomics, ability, etc. and our work reflects that. Our traditions include **Take Back the Night**, a march where we honor victim-survivors of sexual assault and rape, and the **Clothesline Project**. Our agenda varies from year to year and from what we collectively agree to address. This year, we hope to make FemCom more accessible to those wary of the concept of feminism.

We welcome everyone to our meetings and events! Contact any of our Co-Facilitators with questions:



Sofia Levya is a junior majoring in Justice and Peace Studies. As an upper middle class, white-passing woman, she believes that feminism has the power to create positive peace in the world when we recognize the privileges that we carry.

You can contact Sofia at:
levy7016@stthomas.edu



Anna Tillotson is a senior studying Communications and Journalism with a minor in French. When Anna first discovered FemCom her sophomore year, she was impressed with the inclusive space it provided the UST community. Anna strives to keep FemCom a place that makes people feel appreciated and accepted.

You can contact Anna at:
till0022@stthomas.edu



Tessa Schmitz is a senior studying English Education with a minor in American Culture and Difference. FemCom came to her right when she needed it sophomore year. She took solace in its inclusivity as well as the individuality that every person brought to this safe space.

You can contact Tessa at:
schm0490@stthomas.edu



Danielle Wong is a junior studying Communications and Journalism. She stresses the importance of intersectionality because while our struggles may be similar in spirit, they are by no means identical in nature.

You can contact Danielle at:
wong0031@stthomas.edu



Kaitlyn Spratt is a junior studying Women's Studies and English with an emphasis in creative writing. After her first Femcom meeting as a freshman, she was hooked. She values the Femcom culture of empathy and respect, and as co-facilitator she is committed to maintaining a brave space. Kaitlyn is particularly passionate about the rights of victim-survivors of sexual violence.

You can contact Kaitlyn at:
spra6049@stthomas.edu

Join us!
Mondays
8:00-9:00 pm
in the LDCW

FEATURED VOICES

LDCW STUDENT WORKER PROJECT



Kaitlyn Spratt

English and Women's Studies
Majors

LDCW Student Worker

FemCom Co-Facilitator

Class of 2020

Through my job as a student worker at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, I have the opportunity to take on a project that seeks to further the mission of the LDCW. I married my passion for sexual assault advocacy with the need for more resources for survivors.

As humans, it is central that we all want to be accepted. Our past experiences are not baggage, they do not define us. Such is in the case of sexual violence.

Life after Sexual Assault exists. A rich, healthy, romantic life exists after sexual assault. But for better or worse, the road for victim-survivors is rich and complex. Relationships--romantic or sexual--can feel shrouded in that past violence. It can be hard to see past that violence and into another, trust in a significant other, and feel comfortable sharing a past assault.

Someone whose partner is a victim-survivor might feel overwhelmed and unsure how to respond. I created this flyer to compliment the other resources available on campus and to reach out to partners of victim-survivors with guidance.

Supporting a Partner Who is a Victim Survivor of Sexual Violence

Believe Them

It required a lot of bravery to share their story. Acknowledge this.

Reassure Them

Tell them it doesn't change the way you feel about them.

Listen, Listen, Listen

Listen before speaking.

Don't Press for Details

They'll tell you what they are comfortable sharing.

Respect Boundaries

Ask about their physical and emotional boundaries and desires. Don't assume.

Ask How You Can Support Them

Communication is key.

For More Information:
www.rainn.org
prevention@stthomas.edu

All for the Common Good™  UNIVERSITY OF
St. Thomas

FEATURED VOICES

WOMEN IN TECH



Belinda Huang

Music Performance, Computer Science, and French Majors

Class of 2020

Last fall, I applied for the **Google Women Techmakers Scholars Program** and was ecstatic to learn I was one of twenty recipients from North America to receive the scholarship. With it came an invitation to Google's 2018 Student Retreat at their headquarters in Mountain View, CA.

The retreat took place over four days in August. It brought

together recipients of Google scholarships and participants of their CodeU program, around 250 attendees, from all different countries, age ranges, and educational levels. Throughout the retreat, we participated in sessions related to the industry, like resume/interview tips, presentation skills, and networking, as well as sessions relating to personal growth, like combatting imposter syndrome and practicing self-care.

One of the most memorable moments of the retreat was a breakout session where the Women Techmakers had the opportunity to talk to each other about anything. One woman spoke about how she had a difficult time getting her older male colleagues in work meetings to listen to her and let her speak. One participant said how she sought out a buddy in these situations. With that relationship, they became each other's support. **They helped**

each other voice ideas by redirecting conversation or helping to refine arguments and presentations. This forum made me realize I'm not alone in facing these types of situations, and that I have 19 other women in this world who will forever support me and have my support.

One of the most significant things I took away from this retreat was a new sense of confidence in myself and my accomplishments. Despite pursuing three degrees, I couldn't believe I could be a Google Scholar, or that I even deserved to be there (cue imposter syndrome). I felt like a fraud among people who have interned at Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Intel, etc. But I realized I couldn't compare myself to others and what they've done. Instead of wishing for a different life, I gained more appreciation for the one I have and the person I am. Instead of envy and doubt, the accomplishments of my peers make me believe my far-off big dreams are not so far away after all. But no matter what the future holds, whether I become a musician or computer scientist or something else, like one of the presenters said, **"My path is my path. It'll lead where I'm meant to be and right now, here is where I'm meant to be."**

Thank you to Dr. Cornett-Murta-da, Dr. Sawin, and the UST Dept of CIS for their support, and to Google for this opportunity.

I am forever grateful and encourage other women in tech to apply to Google's scholarship opportunities!



REFLECTING ON WOMEN'S HISTORY 2018



Dr. Debra Petersen, Director of the Luann Dummer Center for Women from 1999-2006, introduced the 2018 Women's History Month Speaker, photojournalist Lynsey Addario.

Dr. Debra Petersen

Communications & Journalism

The life of a journalist covering war and areas of conflict is not for the faint of heart.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2017 there were at least 42 journalists killed in the line of duty. What brings men and women to this profession? Gary Pruitt, president of the Associated Press, states "This is a profession of the brave and the passionate, those committed to the mission of bringing to the world information that is fair, accurate and important."

Photojournalists are skilled at interpreting and communicating an event through a photograph. Because their work contributes to the news media, it must be impartial and honest. They must often make instant decisions, and always have their equipment with them, ready to use at a moment's notice in conditions full of obstacles, such as crowds of people, poor weather, or the threat of physical danger.

Photojournalism is a profession that has long been dominated by men. In her memoir, *It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War*, Lynsey Addario describes advantages to being a female in this profession: "As a photographer and as a journalist, I am privy to people's most intimate moments and it's always been surprising by how much people open up to me... All of these moments - women giving birth, women talking about rape - are incredibly personal and incredibly private."

Being afforded this kind of access, Addario feels she has a responsibility to show the world what she's seen: "I feel a huge pressure to be successful in communicating their trauma. I have to make sure that I take this information and disseminate it in a way that's useful to them in the long term; that will prevent other women from going through what they went through. I can't imagine not dedicating my life to trying to stop those things from happening."

In Pakistan following 9-11, this access brought Addario into the homes of women and children, where she built relationships that gave her a better understanding of the foundation of their anti-American sentiment.

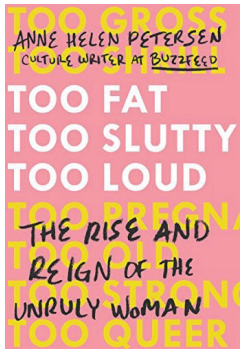
At the same time, although cloaked in her chador with not a strand of hair showing, during demonstrations men knew she was a foreign woman simply because she was carrying a camera, trespassing in a man's world: "To them that was enough to merit a quick feel on any part of my body. They perceived foreign women based on what they saw in movies, often porn movies: easy and available for sex." She tried not to make a scene in front of her male peers: "I didn't want my gender to determine whether or not I could cover breaking news, so I continued photographing, ignoring the sweeping of hands on my butt, the occasional grab."

Addario was briefly abducted in Iraq in 2004, was injured in a car accident in Pakistan in 2009, and abducted again in Libya in 2011. She describes how the harrowing experience of this last abduction reinforced her commitment to her career: **"It actually gave me strength to realize that I'm not a victim... I am a woman who makes these decisions to go to war zones.** I know what the risks are. I know it's possible that I could get kidnapped. I know it's possible that I could get assaulted. Those are the risks I take in order to tell these stories."

On International Women's Day, we celebrate all the women around the world, and those who tell their stories.



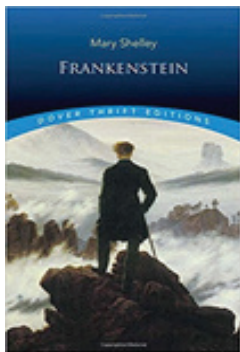
LDCW 2018-2019 BOOK CIRCLE: "WOMEN IN MOTION"



SEPTEMBER

Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud: The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman
(2017) by Anne Helen Petersen
Wednesday, September 26, Noon - 1 p.m.

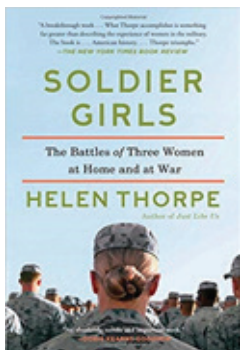
From culture writer Anne Helen Petersen comes an accessible, analytical look at how female celebrities are pushing the boundaries of what it means to be an "acceptable" woman. You know the type: she's too brazen, too opinionated—too much. She's the unruly woman, and she embodies one of the most provocative and powerful forms of womanhood today. Petersen uses the lens of "unruliness" to explore the ascension of pop culture powerhouses like Lena Dunham, Nicki Minaj, and Kim Kardashian, exploring why the public loves to love (and hate) these controversial figures.



OCTOBER

Frankenstein
(1818) by Mary Shelley
Wednesday, October 31, Noon - 1 p.m.

In celebration of 200 years since the birth of Mary Shelley's anguished monster, the LDCW Book Circle will participate in Frankenreads: reading Shelley's work in its entirety. The story of Victor Frankenstein's terrible creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense.



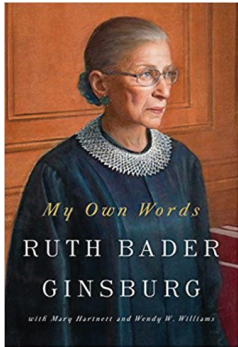
NOVEMBER

Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War
(2014) by Helen Thorpe
Wednesday, November 28, Noon - 1 p.m.

From an award-winning, "meticulously observant" (The New Yorker), and "masterful" (Booklist) writer comes a groundbreaking account of three women deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and how their military service affected their friendship, their personal lives, and their families.



Lynsey Addario at the
2018 Women's History
Month event.



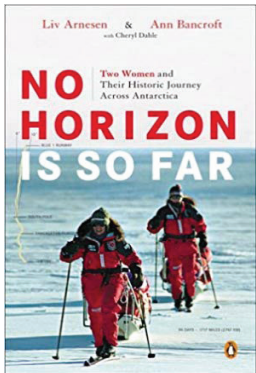
JANUARY

My Own Words

(2016) by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Wednesday, January 30, Noon - 1 p.m.

The first book from Ruth Bader Ginsburg since becoming a Supreme Court Justice in 1993—a witty, engaging, serious, and playful collection of writings and speeches from the woman who has had a powerful and enduring influence on law, women’s rights, and popular culture.



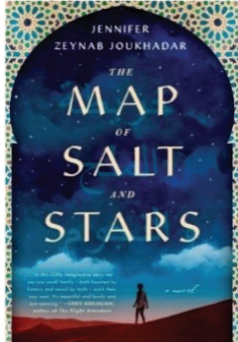
FEBRUARY

No Horizon is So Far

(2009) by Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen

Wednesday, February 27, Noon - 1 p.m.

In 2001, former schoolteachers Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen became the first women to cross the Antarctic continent on foot. Against all odds, they walked, skied, or ice-sailed for nearly three months in temperatures as cold as -35°F, towing their 250-pound supply sledges across 1700 miles of terrain riddled with rotten ice and deadly, hidden crevasses. Though modern technology could not ensure rescue, website transmissions and satellite phones enabled more than 3 million children from 65 countries to bear witness to the journey. *No Horizon Is So Far* explores what drove Ann and Liv across the ice and ultimately into hearts and history books around the world.



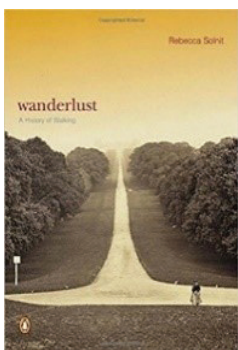
MARCH

The Map of Salt and Stars

(2018) by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar

Wednesday, March 20, Noon - 1 p.m.

This rich, moving, and lyrical debut novel is to Syria what *The Kite Runner* was to Afghanistan; the story of two girls living eight hundred years apart—a modern-day Syrian refugee seeking safety and a medieval adventurer apprenticed to a legendary mapmaker—places today’s headlines in the sweep of history, where the pain of exile and the triumph of courage echo again and again.



APRIL

Wanderlust: A History of Walking

(2001) by Rebecca Solnit

Wednesday, April 24, Noon - 1 p.m.

Arguing that the history of walking includes walking for pleasure as well as for political, aesthetic, and social meaning, Solnit (author of *Men Explain Things to Me*) focuses on the walkers whose everyday and extreme acts have shaped our culture, from Wordsworth to Jane Austen’s Elizabeth Bennet. Solnit argues for the necessity of preserving the time and space in which to walk in our ever more car-dependent and accelerated world.



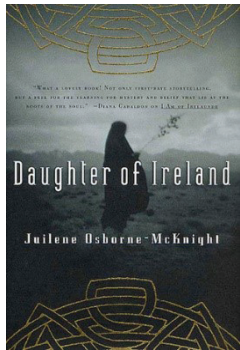
MAY

Persepolis

(2007) by Marjane Satrapi

Wednesday, May 29, Noon - 1 p.m.

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution. Edgy, searingly observant, and candid, often heartbreaking but threaded throughout with raw humor and hard-earned wisdom, *Persepolis* is a stunning work from one of the most highly regarded, singularly talented graphic artists at work today.



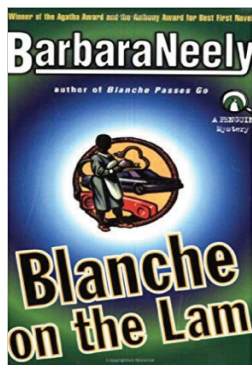
JUNE

Daughter of Ireland

(2003) by Juilene Osborne-McKnight

Wednesday, June 26, Noon - 1 p.m.

Juilene Osborne-McKnight explores Irish history, combining fine historical research with skillful storytelling. Osborne-McKnight has crafted an engaging young heroine who chronicles both Celtic mythology and early pagan/Christian theology through her travels, and recreates a world whose conflicts over power, religion, and law are as immediate and far-reaching as those same conflicts in our own time.



JULY

Blanche on the Lam

(1993) by Barbara Neely

Wednesday, July 31, Noon - 1 p.m.

Certain that she will be blamed when someone turns up dead in the house where she works, Blanche White, a middle-aged domestic worker, turns sleuth to find the true criminal. This work explores the intricacies of southern society and its domestic workers in a fast-paced page-turner.



AUGUST

West With the Night

(1942) by Beryl Markham

Wednesday, August 28, Noon - 1 p.m.

Hailed as "one of the greatest adventure books of all time" by Newsweek and "the sort of book that makes you think human beings can do anything" by the New York Times, *West with the Night* explores the life of British-born Beryl Markham, raised in Kenya and trained as a bush pilot at a time when most Africans had never seen a plane. Markham tells all here--her deep, lifelong love of the "soul of Africa", her torrid love affairs, desperate crash landings-- with wrenching honesty and agile wit.



PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

Going Viral: Contemporary Muslim Women Religious Leadership in Global Communities



Tamara Gray
Graduate Student, Leadership
Graduate Fellowship Recipient

Muslim women's religious leadership is a new and exciting field. Women are taking to conferences, online spaces, and non-profit organizations to lead a new flock of students craving women teachers.

My research revolves around the life experiences of five women based in North America: Dr. Jamillah Hakim, Dr. Zaynab Alwani, Ustadha Zaynab Ansari, Ustadha leasha Prime, and Ustadha Shehnaz Karim. I am also interviewing Muslim women religious leaders around the world in order to enrich the research and provide a larger context for the study. All of my primary subjects come from a variety of backgrounds, use the internet in many different ways, and have a global reach. I am attempting to answer three questions: what are the lived realities of Muslim women teacher-leaders; what is the interplay of digital culture; and what is the essence of their leadership?

With the help of the LDCW Graduate Fellowship, I am looking closely at the online footprint of Muslim women teacher-leaders, conducting long interviews, analyzing their published works and observing them in their leadership positions.

As I examine their work, a number of themes are beginning to emerge. The internet has proven a valuable tool for Muslim women's religious leadership - both in flattening hierarchies and in extending their voices and influence to Muslims around the world. **Much of the writing that Muslim women religious leaders publish is related to finding ways to elevate Muslim women, and to examine issues that concern women.** Dr. Zaynab Alwani wrote a book about domestic abuse, and Ustadha Zaynab Ansari wrote a ground breaking article about spiritual abuse perpetrated by imams. Muslim women religious leaders often provide spaces for women of varied ages to gather - performing traditional rituals that enrich the spiritual lives of their followers. They all teach men in one capacity or another, though each seems to be focused on the spiritual lives of women in their local and global communities.

I come to this work as an insider, so I had high expectations before beginning my research. Nonetheless, each woman leader has surprised me in one way or another with the reach and depth of her work.

I am excited about my continued research throughout the year, as I continue to follow my subjects in my quest to understand the essence of Muslim women's religious leadership in global communities.



2018 Fall
Open House
& Chocolate
Reception

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

Period Pains



Olivia Checkalski

*Psychology and American Culture & Difference
Majors; Class of 2020*

Undergraduate Fellowship Recipient

My research analyzes menstruation as both a perpetuation and reflection of harmful systemic ideologies such as sexism and commodification. It further considers the way **menstruation has been constructed as taboo in our culture.**

Following an extensive literature review, I plan to combine my findings and writing with that of other menstruators to create a website that functions as a digital anthology of texts and art that will make it easy for women to become educated on the topic. The main subject categories on the site will be how menstruation intersects with culture, marginalization, health, money, and action. **By giving menstruators the tools to educate themselves in these areas, my hope is that they will be better able to shed the shame surrounding their menstruation,** and have a better understanding of oppression in other related areas as well. This anthology will include popular and scholarly articles, poetry, visual art, and links to relevant websites, blogs, and products. It will serve as both a teaching tool and celebration of all things menstruation. In the end, this site will be a space where people who menstruate can be empowered and inspired. I invite you to check it out:

<https://bleedbetweenthehines.com/>

Though this project began with a focus on products, specifically tampons, it now has shifted to menstruation in general. By allowing the emphasis of the work to evolve, it allowed me to paint a more complete picture of the issue: our monthly bleeding, after all, is about so much more than what we use to contain it. Further, my choice of a website will make it easy for anyone to view, use, and share. The final product includes work by women on campus and is truly the result of incredible collaboration among menstruators.

This spirit of collaboration continued this fall, as I teamed up with the LDCW and Create [Space] to put on an event to kickstart what I hope will be a growing conversation on menstrual equity.

Finally, I will be attending Period Con in December where I will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field, and bring that knowledge back to St. Thomas.



PROGRESS REPORTS FROM 2018-2019 LDCW GRANTS

Women blaming women: Social identification, internalized misogyny, and gender linked fate



Melissa Serafin

*Graduate School of Professional Psychology
Graduate Fellowship Recipient*

Nearly one in five women have been raped in the United States. Very few of these women will choose to report the rape, and if they do, they will likely be met with blame from some of those they disclose the incident to. Negative reactions, such as blame, to sexual violence disclosures cause significant psychological damage, a sense of de-legitimization as a victim, and often prevent survivors from reporting incidents of sexual violence in the first place.

While men are more likely to exhibit victim-blaming attitudes towards survivors of sexual violence, many women also exhibit these attitudes. This is particularly paradoxical, as they share membership in the same lower status gender category. My project explores how women who exhibit victim-blaming attitudes differ from those who do not. I examine not only demographic differences, but also differences in how strongly they identify as women and how they relate to their gender category. This project entails a quantitative analysis of anonymous online survey data collected through the fall of 2018, with the intention of culminating in a peer-reviewed journal publication.

The “Me Too Movement” has seen an unprecedented number of disclosures of sexual violence, and it signifies a huge step forward in shifting our culture away from victim blaming towards perpetrator accountability. However, there is still much left to do, and **a comprehensive understanding of why individuals blame survivors is crucial to improving low conviction rates, encouraging disclosures and reporting, and preventing sexual violence from occurring at all.**

FINAL REFLECTIONS...

Investigating Autobiography in Comics by Women



Keith Pille

*Graduate Student, Art History
2017-2018 Graduate Fellowship Recipient*

I was excited to use the LDCW Graduate Fellowship to pursue my art historical research into self-published autobiographical comics made by women. I examined the work of Ariel Schrag, Julia Wertz, and Deena Mohamed, cartoonists whose active periods collectively extend from the late 1990s to the present day. Schrag created comics in the 1990s while in high school exploring her sexual identity; Wertz worked in the 2000s documenting her life as an overeducated, underemployed young woman with a chronic illness and a drinking problem in San Francisco; and Mohamed’s work uses the tropes of su-

FINAL REFLECTIONS FROM 2017-2018 LDCW GRANT RECIPIENTS

perhero comics to examine things she experienced in post-Arab Spring Cairo.

I learned that **this type of comics work provides women with a powerful set of tools to tell their own stories** without interference from corporate gatekeepers or distortions from market pressures; and that this ability to tell one's own story honestly and on one's own terms is in turn an extremely powerful mechanism with which to assert one's identity.

This research, which included interviews with all three cartoonists, laid the foundation for my qualifying paper in St. Thomas' master's program in art history. In that paper, in addition to going into what I said above about assertion of identity at much greater length, I examined the industry structures that have tended to keep women out of comics (or at least restrict their options) and argued that, in comics whose main goal is to reveal the personality of the person who created the work, expressive style is perceived as being much more important than highly refined realism. My overall conclusion was that these three women are exemplars of an exciting, important, and underappreciated segment of the art world, and that their work has inspirational potential for all.

Unraveling the Complexities of Prostitution



Madalyn Rudkin

*Justice & Peace Studies Major
Class of 2019*

2017-2018 Undergraduate Fellowship Recipient

For the past year, I have been conducting research on prostitution as an industry. Initially, I was curious about a woman's entry into prostitution and the relationship between the woman and her trafficker. Not long after beginning this research, I began running into tough questions like "Is prostitution violence against women?" and "Can prostitution be empowering for women?" But the question that stuck with me the most was: **"Why does the prostitution industry still persist and thrive today?"** And this is where things got interesting—because I was forced to look at the culture we live in, a culture that has been described as a "sexually coercive landscape in which sexual intrusion has become normalized."

Sexual intrusion can be a harmful sexual comment, an unwanted hand on a thigh, or someone raping another person. But these coercive, invasive actions aren't tendencies we are born with—they're learned. We learn what it means to be masculine and feminine by society's definition as soon as we can perceive and understand the world around us. Traditionally for women, the learning of what it means to be feminine has been synonymous with learning how to be a second-class citizen while traditionally for men, the learning of what it means to be masculine has been synonymous with the learning of how to be dominating, emotionless, and highly sexually active.

From what I have learned through my research, I believe that prostitution is violence against women. Prostitution is transactional, dehumanizing, and something that is the result of a lack of options for women. In receiving this research grant from the LDCW, I have been able to dive deep into researching the prostitution industry with a holistic view, and this opportunity has actually led me to consider being a lobbyist for the abolitionist movement after my time at St. Thomas. I am grateful for this grant because it has allowed me to discover my passion for fighting violence against women.

YARN TAMERS

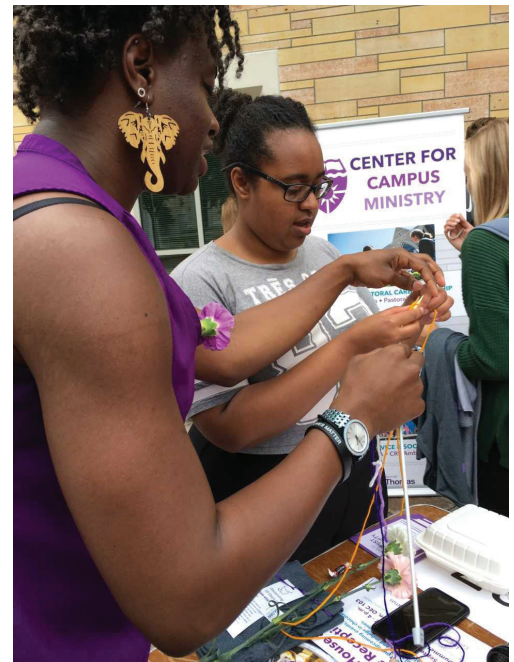
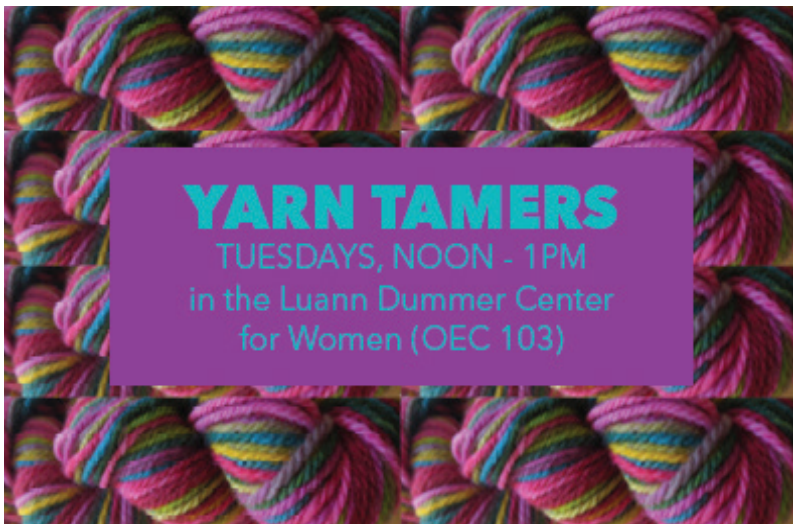
Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues, and socializing.

Everyone is welcome! If you do not work on any yarn craft, you can come for the social time or to get pointers from other crafters.

Each year, the Yarn Tamers work on a service project of creating blankets for the women and children staying at Alexandra House who have been affected by domestic violence.

During the academic year, Yarn Tamers meet on **Tuesdays from noon - 1 pm in the Luann Dummer Center for Women (OEC 103).** Throughout the summer, Yarn Tamers meet on the Monahan Plaza, weather permitting.

If you would like to receive weekly reminders and updates for Yarn Tamers, please email Christine Balsley at christine.balsley@stthomas.edu, and she'll add you to the list!



FALL 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the LDCW website www.stthomas.edu/ldcw for further details or additional events and activities.
(All events are held at the LDCW, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

Weekly Events

Mondays: Hours with Emily Erickson, 3-4 pm | FemCom, 8-9 pm

Tuesdays: Yarn Tamers, 12-1 pm

Wednesdays: Catholic Women's Leadership, 5:30-7 pm

Thursdays: QSA, 5:30-6:30 pm

- Sept. 17 (M)**.....Graduate FemCom Kickoff Celebration, 6-7:30 pm
- Sept. 21 (F)**.....LDCW Chocolate Reception & Open House, 2 - 4:00 pm
- Sept. 26 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman* by Anne Helen Petersen,
Noon - 1 pm
- Sept 26 (W)**.....And Still We Rise, Dr. Aida Martinez-Freeman, "Ancestral Emergence and the
Revolutionary Act of Healing," 5:30-7 pm (collaboration with SDIS)
- Sept. 28 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger, "The Making of Music for Peace," Noon-1pm
- Oct. 10 (W)**.....And Still We Rise, Dr. Saby Labor, "Amplifying Resilience and Embodying Multiplicities,"
5:30-7 pm (collaboration with SDIS)
- Oct.19 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, Sherrie Fernandez-Williams, "Telling It Whole," Noon - 1 pm
- Oct. 29 (M)**....."The Spirit of the Beehive," Film Screening and Discussion, 5:30-7:45 pm (OWS 150),
with the English Department
- Oct. 30 (T)**.....Dr. Jerry Husak, "The Biology Behind, and Ahead of, Frankenstein," Noon-1 pm,
Iversen Hearth Room (ASC 340), with the English Department
- Oct. 30 (T)**.....Dr. Joel Pace, "Reflections on Frankenstein, Film, and Black Atlantic Autobiography,"
6:00 pm, Iversen Hearth Room (ASC 340), with the English Department
- Oct. 31 (W)**.....FRANKENREADS: Marathon Reading of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, OSF Library (108),
9am -6 pm, with English Department
- Oct. 31 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, Noon - 1 pm
- Nov. 2 (F)**Feminist Friday, Morgan Schreurs, "Advice from a Mentee," Noon - 1 pm
- Nov. 14 (W)**.....And Still We Rise, Dr. Katrina Phillips, "There Are Rocks in Between: A Family Story of
Native Resistance," 5:30-7pm (collaboration with SDIS)
- Nov. 28 (W)**.....LDCW Book Circle, *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at
War* by Helen Thorpe, Noon- 1 pm
- Nov. 30 (F)**.....Feminist Friday, Molly White, "Expectations and Reality," Noon - 1 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

March 7 (TH).....2019 Women's History Month Lecture by Ann Bancroft (OEC Auditorium)



Luann Dummer Center for Women
2115 Summit Avenue Mail 4075
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 USA

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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