

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, Issue 1

Fall 2017

Edited by Michelle Suarez and Stacey Bradley

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Psychology and Women's Studies offer a new course

By Rene Sleeman

The Department of Psychology and the Women's Studies program are offering a brand-new course this fall, Cultural Change Ambassadors, for students who are passionate about equality and cultural change on the UTC campus. Students enrolled in this class participate in discussions about intense and sensitive topics related to gender, race, sexual discrimination, and mores. In short, they are training to become Cultural Ambassadors for the UTC community. The Psychology Department and the Women's Studies program worked together to bring this life-changing class to UTC for the first time. It is being taught by two Psychology professors, **Drs. Zelin and Rogers**, and was developed with guidance and support from **Dr. Brian O'Leary** (Psychology), **Dr. Marcia Noe** (Women's Studies/English), and Lecturer **Tracye Pool** (Women's Studies/English). The course is centered on training students to deliver a bystander training and critical consciousness program that Dr. Zelin has been delivering for several years to a wide array of audiences. In this training, student leaders within the course will present information to students in classrooms across UTC which foster discussion around being an



Dr. Alexandra Zelin

empowered bystander, debunking rape myths, and creating a culture change through raising critical consciousness. In addition to being trained as Empowered Bystanders and as facilitators of the training, the course will feature several guest speakers from the community and university. So far, Dr. Deanna Beasley has spoken on gender discrimination in academia, and Brooke Satterfield has spoken on intimate partner violence and the reasons why cultural changes are needed. "We need a cultural change," Dr. Zelin stated, "This bystander program started at my graduate university and we saw how much of a difference it made and we now have the data to



Dr. Kate Rogers

demonstrate its efficiency." Drs. Zelin and Rogers hope that students in the course, as well as students receiving the training, will feel empowered and confident that they can make a difference, and strive to create a world of equality and acceptance regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or identity. When asked what inspired her to get involved with the Cultural Change program, Dr. Rogers said something inspiringly simple, "There are many issues that students face on campus, such as gender discrimination and sexual assault, and we can do better. It can start as something small, but those build up and it all stems from gender roles and discrimination, and we are in a position to make a difference, so why not?"

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER MACKENZIE BUTERA

By Michelle Suarez



Women's Studies major and Entrepreneurship minor **Mackenzie Butera** has recently been awarded the Felicia Sturzer Scholarship for academic achievement for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mackenzie is from Nolensville, TN, a small town outside of Nashville. She chose UTC after discovering all of the outdoor activities, such as hiking, that Chattanooga has to offer.

Mackenzie stays very involved within the community while remaining a full-time student. In August 2016, she began working part-time for the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga. She has worked on the advocacy committee, which has recently been focused on Sex Education in public schools in the state. They also gear their focus toward policy for women who are survivors of sexual assault.

Aside from work, Mackenzie also volunteers once a week for The Partnership's Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline. Since completing training for the hotline in October, Mackenzie says she has learned a lot about how to handle traumatic situations and understand the reality of them.

During the spring of 2018, Mackenzie also worked as a research assistant for **Dr. Marcia Noe**, Director of the Women's

Studies Program; they co-authored an article that has been submitted to the *Explicator*.

Mackenzie believes that the most important gender-related issue today is sex education. She believes that poor sex education can result in many deeper issues, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and a lack of understanding of nonheteronormative gender identities. She believes this is especially important in Tennessee because of the Gateway Law, which limits the conversations teachers can have with their students about sex due to the belief that talking about sex is a gateway to engaging in sexual activity.

Mackenzie plans to graduate in May 2019.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KARLA EVANS By Michelle Suarez



Karla Evans is a UTC Women's Studies alumna who graduated in the summer of '15. Karla says she chose Women's Studies because it

is an interdisciplinary major that allowed her to study many different subjects while simultaneously relating them to one another. She says that some of her favorite classes were those that focused on the everyday lives of women, though her most memorable class was *Femme Fatales* with Gale Mauk. Karla minored in Creative Writing.

Karla works at UTC where she has been employed for nine years. She recently began working in the Records office handling transfer history and had previously worked in the Bursar's Office.

Karla has been involved within the community through volunteering at Girls Inc., The Partnership for Families,

Children, and Adults, and Reflective Writing. She became very involved with The Partnership during her WSTU Senior Seminar service learning project, but remained involved after the class ended. At The Partnership, Karla has worked with the children of those who are receiving help from The Partnership and helped with research on the Adverse Childhood Experience project.

Karla recently attended the Chattanooga Women's March (see left).

In her free time, Karla loves to garden, read, and write. Her favorite author is Miranda July, whose writing style she envies.

WOMEN'S STUDIES CELEBRATES NEW LOCATION WITH VALENTINE'S OPEN HOUSE by Michelle Suarez

Women's Studies recently relocated to room 260 of the former State Office Building. The program hosted a Valentine's Day open house in an effort to get our students, faculty, and supporters acquainted with our new location. There was a light lunch provided, which **Dr. Immaculate Kizza** can be seen enjoying in the photo below (left). Faculty like **Dr. Mike Jaynes** attended and was able to catch up with students **Olivia Brown, Michelle Suarez, Allie Burgin,** and alumna **Karla Evans**. Our Women's Studies fall semester student worker, **Rene Sleeman**, and classmate **Hudson Hensley** were able to stop by between classes.



Love Your Body Week: November 13th-17th

By Stacey Bradley and Rachel Hofer

Love Your Body Week will take place the week of **November 13th-17th**.

Monday, November 13th from 11:00-2:00, there will be a tabling event in the University Center with love your body-related swag.

Tuesday, November 14th from 7:00-8:00, in the Women's Center, there will be a book club discussion of selected sections of Roxane Gay's *Hunger*. Sections are TBA, and copies of the book will be available free of charge to students through the Women's Center. There will be a follow-up book club on **Tuesday, November 28th**, also in the Women's Center, for students who want to discuss the entire book. Refreshments will be provided at both events.

Wednesday, November 15th, time TBA, in The Hope House, there will be a Slam Poetry and Spoken Word night. Refreshments will be provided and students will be encouraged to share their original poetry or prose as well as their favorite published pieces.

In addition to these events, students are welcome to attend and participate in Dear World, as we think this is a powerful way to share unique experiences.



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Women's Studies students met on Tuesday, September 19, to recruit students for The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga's Nightingale Network. The Women's Fund was established in 2007 to focus on advocacy for women's issues, Executive Director Emily O' Donnell told the students. Women's Fund volunteers lobbied in Nashville to urge legislators to pass the Equal Pay Act, sex education in schools, and to protect victims of domestic violence from eviction. The Nightingale Network is the philanthropic arm of the Women's Fund. Each year the Network raises funds to make a grant to a direct service provider for women and girls. Student Nightingale Network memberships were given away at the September 19 meeting to **Nikki Brown, Hayley Roberts, Rachel Horn, Rachel King, Mackenzie Moore, Odessia Rogers, Allison Cyrus, and Rachel Hofer.**

The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga's Nightingale Network
By Stacey Bradley