

# Women's Studies Newsletter

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Edited by Kaitlin Cottle, Meghann Parry and Connor Anderson



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## UTC Welcomes Joyce Dugan and *The Cherokee Word for Water* for Women's History Month

Joyce Dugan is the keynote speaker for our women's history month programming. Joyce is the first and only woman to hold the position of Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In 2006, because of her efforts toward cultural preservation, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She currently serves on the Cherokee Indian Hospital Governing Board and the Development Foundations Board of Directors for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

While chief, Dugan facilitated the purchase of Kituhwa, ancient "mother town" of the Cherokees in order to preserve the ancient site and the history and tradition of her tribe. This purchase was unprecedented because the site was not located on the reservation. It was also a very important site to the women of the Cherokee. In Cherokee tradition, the first woman, Selu, was killed, and where her blood soaked the ground, corn and beans grew. During the Cherokee removal, no one regretted leaving this place more than Cherokee women,

who by tradition had tilled the soil, writes Theda Perdue, a Cherokee historian (*Native Peoples Magazine*, Winter 1999). With Dugan's help they were able to come back to it.

In addition to Joyce Dugan's talk, the film *The Cherokee Word for Water* will be shown. This film is a full-length motion picture which tells the story of how Wilma Mankiller became the first modern woman Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

As chief Mankiller was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and was *Ms. Magazine's* Woman of the Year. Gloria Steinem said, "...as long as people like Wilma Mankiller carry the flame within them centuries of ignorance and genocide can't extinguish the human spirit."

The leadership of Dugan and Mankiller is reminiscent of a time in Cherokee history when Cherokee society was actually structured around women. Their leadership is a reaffirmation of women's power among the Cherokees.

Come join us in experiencing these wonderful Cherokee women.



**The film and talk with Joyce Dugan will be on:**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015**

**in the Chattanooga Room of the University Center. The film will be shown at 5:30 pm. The talk and discussion will follow.**

**Reminder:**

**UTC offers both  
a Major and a  
Minor in  
Women's Studies**



**Attention:**  
**If you are MAJORING**  
**or MINORING in**  
**Women's Studies,**  
**Please declare your**  
**major/minor on the**  
**Records Office**  
**website as soon as**  
**possible.**



## Student Spotlight: Connor Anderson

Connor is a UTC senior majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in Criminal Justice, and she will be graduating this May. She is currently an intern with the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga where she is working on revamping an old program called The Nightingale Network which focuses on empowering young women to become philanthropists. Connor believes that it is very important to find what you are passionate about within feminism because there are so many different avenues and fields of study. Dr. Noe and Connor were introduced before she had been accepted into the Women's Studies program or even UTC. Connor reached out to Dr. Noe about the film *Girl, Rising* which she worked to bring to Chattanooga.

This was Connor's introduction to the Women's Studies program and about the program she says, "It's a great major because you can tailor it to your own experience and what you want to study. You can take it in what ever direction you want to which I think is invaluable." Within the Women's Studies major Connor's most influential class was Violence Against Women with Women's Center Director Sara Peters. "It was eye opening. I had done my research and I knew that violence against women was a global epidemic. Even so, I found this class to be eye opening and affirming of the work I wanted to do." This class also sparked Connor's involvement at the Women's Center. During her second semester at UTC Connor was

made facilitator of the Women's Action Council and a member of the Women's Center's student board WISE. Her favorite Women's Studies course however, was not Violence Against but Goddess Traditions. "It was a beautiful class. It was wonderful to be able to explore another side of Women's Studies. I was able to explore Goddess traditions in my native New Mexico for my final paper. It was really fun to be able to include a bit of home in my studies." After graduation Connor is moving home to New Mexico where she hopes to work with a non-profit organization focused on women's issues and attend graduate school.

## Student Spotlight: Colleen Mahn

Colleen Mahn, a UTC senior, will be graduating this December with a degree in Women's Studies and English Literature. Currently, Colleen is working on her Service Learning project through her Senior Seminar. She is working with the domestic violence court advocates through local programs including The Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults and A Step Ahead Foundation. Colleen is working alongside her cousin, General Sessions Judge Christie Sell, who helped found the domestic violence court. Through this program she will be working with court advocates who provide many helpful

resources and tools such as reproductive health services, counseling, and transportation to domestic violence victims and survivors. Colleen says the Women's Studies major has given her a broader sense of who she is as an individual and as a member of society. This summer Colleen has applied for a ten-week paid internship with RRASC, Reproductive Rights Activists Service Core, based out of Boston, Massachusetts. Colleen says she is looking for "a broader perspective and journey because I have been met with a lot of support along my way. I just want to give back as much as I can." Colleen is

planning on doing just that after she graduates. She has already submitted her application for the Peace Corps. "I'm looking at teaching abroad if that falls through and trying to not just affect the community or the US, but looking even broader." She is looking overseas at areas where women's issues are at the forefront, including South America and Africa. She says she'd like to take a year or two away from academia to get real world experience before heading to graduate school.

## Feel Good Naked with Amber Krzys

Feel Good Naked is a program which brings speakers to UTC to talk about positive body image. Last year's speaker was Kjerstin Gruys, feminist scholar and author of *Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall*. This year's speaker Amber Krzys is coming to UTC to help you Feel Good Naked. Amber Krzys is a life coach and the founder of bodyheart, an organization which helps women and men feel good about their bodies. Krzys says that through the organization she helps people embrace where they are in their bodies and lives so they can experience the freedom, confidence, and joy they deserve. Her goal is to help people love and relish their bodies and lives. One of her main focuses is dismantling "when/then" statements: "When I lose 10 pounds, then I'll wear my skinny jeans." Her programs help people to accept themselves as they are in the moment, including strengths and weaknesses, so that they can move on to the life they want and deserve to have, including a positive relationship with the body. "It's about get-

ting honest with yourself and taking responsibility for your choices so that you can have a blank slate to create the health, wealth and happiness you want." According to a Brown University study of college students, 74.4% of the normal-weight women stated that they thought about their weight or appearance "all the time" or "frequently." But the women weren't alone; the study also found that 46% of the normal-weight men surveyed responded the same way. So, in today's toxic body image climate Krzys' message is invaluable to young women and we are excited that she will be bringing her messages of self-love and respect to UTC this spring. Amber's talk is co-sponsored by the following groups: Women's Studies, the Women's Center, the Counseling and Personal Development Center, Student Health Services, the Dean of Students Office, UTC Panhellenic, Focus Treatment Center, the Campus Activities Board, and UTC Active Minds.



**"From Body Hater to Body Celebrator"**  
**FEEL GOOD NAKED**  
**Wednesday March 4th**  
**7:00pm**  
**in the**  
**UC Auditorium**

## Alumni Spotlight: Emily Quinn ('12)

Women's Studies Alumna Emily Quinn ('12) is changing lives for students with disabilities at UTC and on campuses across the U.S.

Emily graduated UTC with a BA in History and Women's Studies and a Minor in Psychology and is now pursuing her Master's in Special Education while working for the Disability Resource Center. There, she has helped to develop Mosaic, a comprehensive support program for students with autism disorders that offers life and academic coaching. She, Michelle Rigler and Amy Ruth-

erford have a published book about their work, *Independence, Social, and Study Strategies for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Basics College Curriculum*.

Emily was promoted by the Disability Resource Center in June of 2014 to the position of Access Coordinator: Eligibility and Accommodations. She plans to continue working with the Disability Resource Center and hopes to earn her PhD in Higher Education and Administration.





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE AT  
CHATTANOOGA

Women's Studies  
Program 2703  
615 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Phone: 423-425-4692  
www.utc.edu/womens-studies  
E-mail: Marcia-Noe@utc.edu



## Women's Studies Speakers Spring 2015

Dr. Michelle Dearthoff	February 23, 2015	"Pregnant Chicks Get Fat and Other Legal Discoveries"
Dr. Heather Palmer and Eleanor Woods	March 02, 2015	"Black Feminist Activism: Fan-nie Lou Hammer and the Civil Rights Movement"
Dr. William Kuby	March 16, 2015	"Mary Jane Warfield Clay: Solo Parenting and Divorce in Nineteenth-Century Kentucky"
Dr. James Arnett	March 23, 2015	"Taking Pictures: The Affective Economy of Postcolonial Performativity in NoViolet Bulawayo's We Need New Names"
Dr. Helen Eigenberg	March 30, 2015	"Who is Creating the Knowledge in Your Textbook?"

All talks will take place in the Raccoon Mountain Room of the University Center at 5:30 p.m. Please join us at 5:00 p.m. in the Raccoon Mountain Room for refresh-

Editorial Information: The Women's Studies Newsletter appears at least once a semester. For more information please contact Dr. Noe at (423) 425-4692 (office) or (423) 266-9316 (home), or email her at Marcia-Noe@utc.edu. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is an equal employment opportunity/ affirmative action/ Title VII/ Title IX/ Section 504/ ADA/ ADA/ ADEA institution. E041002003-001-15