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Voices Raised, Issue 03

University of Dayton. Women's Center

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*Revolution is a
serious thing,
the most serious
thing about a
revolutionary's
life. When one
commits oneself
to the struggle, it
must be for a
lifetime."*

Angela Davis

Walking a 'Thin Line':

Play shows struggles caused by eating disorders

Instead of reading adventure books or playing on the monkey-bars, over 45% of nine-year-old girls today are dieting. And instead of reading novels or celebrating their newfound independence, nearly one in ten college women are suffering from an eating disorder.

*"The number of
women we see who
don't feel good
about their bodies is
probably 75 to 80
percent."*

*Dr. Erin Shiner
Counseling Center*

The statistics, according to www.eatingdisorderinfo.org, go on and on in our day and age. Over eight million people in the United States today are

trapped in the clutches of a disease that has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness. But do we really understand these disorders?

This is the question at the heart of Cathy Plourde's one-woman show, *The Thin Line*, coming to the University of Dayton on March 8. The show is sure to stir up emotion in the audience, but this is exactly what the playwright was intending.

The 30-minute production tells the story a young woman, Ellen, who is coping with anorexia nervosa, a disease marked by an intense fear of becoming fat while refusing to maintain a normal weight.

The single actress also plays the young woman's friend and mother who relate their own struggles in watching someone they love slowly die.

The last character portrayed

is in part what makes the show so powerful. This character is Ellen's inner voice, a force that controls her mind and behavior progressively throughout the production.

The play is geared toward victims of eating disorders as well as their friends and family members, and the Women's Center and Counseling and Health Centers hope that the audience might recognize themselves or someone they love in the production.

"We deal with eating disorders regularly," said Erin Shiner, a psychologist at the Counseling Center. "However, the (total) number of women we see

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UD celebrates women's history in March

Celebrating Women's History Month in March, the Women's Center has joined efforts with a number of offices, departments and individuals to bring special events and activities to the University of Dayton campus.

Events include:

KU Display Case

The main display case in the Kennedy Union first floor lobby will highlight and provide information on activities during UD's 2004 Women's History Month celebration. Theta Phi Alpha has agreed to handle this display.

Women's Studies Film Festival

Women's Studies faculty members Marybeth Carlson, Ellen Fleischmann, Clare Talwalker and Caroline Merithew have planned a month-long film festival. The festival's theme is "Women's

Stories, Women's Cameras," and the films selected represent a cross-section of international women directors, producers or screenwriters of films portraying women's stories.

The selected films are:

- *Surname Viet*
- *Given Name Nam*
- *Antonia's Line*
- *Whale Rider*
- *The Women Next Door*

The films will be shown in O'Leary Auditorium on March 4, 10, 22 and 30. Films begin at 6:30 p.m., each followed by a one-hour discussion.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

25th Anniversary of Women's Studies

This year the Women's Studies Program celebrates 25 years as a vibrant academic program.

In celebration of this anniversary, feminist poet and

novelist Marge Piercy is scheduled to speak March 8 and 9. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Thin Line

The play *The Thin Line* will be presented in Kennedy Union Ballroom March 8, from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., including a discussion panel led by Drs. Mary Buchwalder and Becky Cook.

The Thin Line is free and open to the public.

Silent Witness

Silent Witness is a display of free-standing, life-sized figures bearing the names of women whose lives ended violently at the hands of husbands, ex-husbands, partners, or acquaintances. This

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What's Going On?

March is Women's History Month

March
2004
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Reference the
Women's
Center Web
site,
[womenscenter.
udayton.edu](http://womenscenter.udayton.edu),
for complete
and
up-to-date
information
on WHM

	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6	Sunday 7
• KU Display Case highlights Women's History Month <i>March 1-8</i>	<i>Silent Witness Display in Torch Lounge Feb. 25 - March 3</i>		• Surname Viet Given Name Nam 6:30 p.m. O'Leary			
8 • Marge Piercy lecture • <i>The Thin Line</i> 7 p.m. KU Ballroom	9 • Marge Piercy public reading/book signing 8 p.m.	10 • <i>Antonia's Line</i> 6:30 p.m. O'Leary	11	12 • POP 10th Anniversary Celebration luncheon KU Ballroom 11:30 a.m.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 • <i>Whale Rider</i> 6:30 in O'Leary	23	24	25 • <i>Mona Lisa Smile</i> 9 p.m. O'Leary • Miryam Award presented 4:30 in UD Chapel	26	27	28
29	30 • <i>The Women Next Door</i> 6:30 O'Leary	31 • Native American film and spirit shield presentation 5:00 p.m. Women's Center				

WHM Events provide something for everyone

cont. from Page 1

national initiative, dedicated to the elimination of domestic murder, will be at UD from February 25-March 3, displayed in Kennedy Union's Torch Lounge.
POP 10th Anniversary Celebration

This event on March 12 includes a luncheon in the Kennedy Union Ballroom with keynote speaker Christine Martinello who will present "What Hat Will I Wear Today?" which highlights the seven victory skills for leadership.

Mona Lisa Smile

CAB and the Office of Student Activities will present the film *Mona Lisa Smile* on March 25 in O'Leary Auditorium. The movie is free and will be shown at 9 p.m.

Miryam Award

The Miryam Award has been given annually since 1996 in recognition of a UD person or organization whose actions have both enhanced the climate for and supported the advancement of UD women.

The award consists of an engraved nameplate on a plaque displayed permanently in the Barrett Dining Room, as well as a \$1000 gift to be designated by the recipient to further enhance the climate for women on campus.

The Miryam Award will be given on March 25, 2004. The events will begin with a 4:30 pm Prayer Service in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, followed by the award ceremony and reception in the Torch Lounge.

Student Bulletin Board/Sheet Contest

The residence halls and the student neighborhood will be given an opportunity to

participate in a bulletin board and sheet decoration contest. Prizes will be awarded to the most creative and women-inspiring ideas.

Women Build

Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring the first Habitat home in the area to be built by an all-women team of volunteers. The home is to be given to a single mother and her two daughters. Women Build training classes will meet Feb. 10 - March 13, Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-11 a.m.

Clothes That Work!

This organization is located in the Jobs Center on Edwin C. Moses Drive and provides interview and work-appropriate clothing to low income individuals.

POP is coordinating a campus drive for Clothes That Work! during

March to gather and donate clothing and funds to the program.

Alison Van Pelt, "The Women" - Dayton Art Institute exhibit

New York artist Alison Van Pelt has created a series of large-scale portraits of "female artists who established their careers prior to the women's liberation movement." Among them are compelling paintings of Frida Kahlo, Georgia O'Keefe, Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, and Eva Hesse.

The exhibit is free and runs through June 6. An evening showing for UD faculty and staff is being planned in March. CAB is sponsoring a student showing.

See the DAI Web site: [www.daytonartinstitute.org/
exhibits/vanpelt.html](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/exhibits/vanpelt.html) for details.

• Jennifer Rogers
Women's Center Intern
Pattie Waugh
WHM Coordinator

Marge Piercy: Poet, Activist, Feminist

Marge Piercy is one of the most recognizable names in modern feminist and literary writing. She has written more than 15 books of poetry as well as novels and a collection of essays on writing fiction.

In March, Piercy will visit the University of Dayton campus and hold a series of lectures and poetry readings for Women's History Month, the Distinguished Speakers Series and the English department's Litfest.

Piercy is scheduled to speak March 8 at an afternoon workshop and evening lecture, and will treat UD to a public poetry reading March 9, followed that evening by a reception and book signing.

"The writing of the poem is a journey, and you have no idea if it's public, private, where you are going or what you are doing with it," Piercy says of the creation of her poetry. "You know the poem is important, but the poem itself is a journey that has a very uncertain outcome until the poem is really finished."

Her work is dedicated to exploring interactions between ideology and aesthetics through a combination of Marxism, feminism and environmentalism, and she has spoken all over the country on these themes for the past three decades.

Piercy has been active in social and political causes since the 1960s, and fights for the equal treatment of women and minorities through her writing.

She has been quoted on bedfordstmartins.com saying that she wants her poetry to be useful.

"What I mean by useful is simply that readers will find poems that speak to and for them, will take those poems into their lives and say them to each other and put them



"I am not a poet who ever pretended not to be female."

Marge Piercy

up on the bathroom wall and remember bits and pieces of them in stressful or quiet moments....To find ourselves spoken for in art gives dignity to our pain, our anger, our lust, our losses," Piercy said.

See "A Good Read" below for a listing of the Women's Center's Resource Center's collection of Marge Piercy's work.

• Jennifer Rogers
Women's Center Intern

Play leads fight against anorexia

cont. from Page 1

who don't feel good about their bodies is probably 75 to 80 percent."

Shiner will serve as a moderator along with fellow Counseling Center psychologist, Rebecca Cook, and Mary Buchwalder, the Health Center's Medical Director.

The three will host a panel discussion immediately following the show to answer any audience questions and concerns.

Small groups will also facilitate discussion for those who may be interested. Due to the show's intensity, the Counseling Center is making sure counselors will be available for anyone who may need to talk during or after the presentation.

The Health and Counseling Centers have worked hard to provide care for both women and men on campus who are experiencing difficulties with eating disorders.

"Students should feel free to see me or to talk with someone

at the Counseling Center," Buchwalder said. "Both are free and confidential."

The Thin Line is sure to be a powerful event here at UD, and certainly one not to miss.

"We really hope that this performance will bring the issue of eating disorders to life for UD students," Shiner said.

The performance will be held in Kennedy Union Ballroom and admission is free.

• Ashley Neu
Women's Center Writer

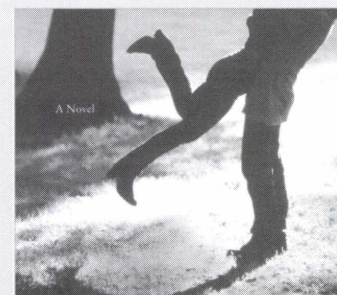
The Thin Line
Kennedy Union
March 8
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Free and open
to the public

A Good Read...

Poetry and novels by Marge Piercy can be checked out from the Women's Center Resource Center

- *The Third Child*
- *What Are Big Girls Made Of*
- *Early Grrrl: The Early Poems of Marge Piercy*
- *The Moon is Always Female*
- *Woman on the Edge of Time*
- *City of Darkness, City of Light*
- *Circles on the Water*
- *Colors Passing Through Us: Selected Poems*
- *Sleeping with Cats: A Memoir*
- *Gone to Soldiers*
- *The Art of Blessing the Day*

Search the Women's Center's book and video holdings via the Resources tab at womenscenter.udayton.edu



The Third Child
MARGE
PIERCY
Author of *Three Women*

Women's Health & Wellness

Ask the Doc

Mary Buchwalder, M.D.

"I'm worried that my housemate might have an eating disorder. How can I tell and what can I do to help her?"

Alicia

Eating disorders are very common, especially in young women. Signs that are suspicious for eating disorders include:

- secretive eating, bingeing (eating much more than someone normally would at one sitting, and feeling unable to stop oneself)

- disappearing to the bathroom after eating (to vomit), use of laxatives or water pills (diuretics)

- very limited amount or avoidance of certain types of food (e.g. *totally* avoiding fat in foods)

- fighting with friends or family about what or how much to eat

- thinking about food all the time, food rituals (e.g. cutting food into tiny pieces and eating them very slowly)

- hating *any* body fat, perfectionist tendency, sudden significant weight loss

- poor self-esteem, depression
- compulsive exercise
- using diet supplements

Usually several of these symptoms are present if someone truly has a problem. So...what should you do if she does have some of these symptoms?

- DON'T criticize or nag
- DON'T focus on food, weight or body image
- DO point out strengths and talents

- DO focus on health and happiness; let her know you're concerned if she is feeling blue

- Do encourage her to seek help from a physician, counselor, dietitian or support group; all of these are available here on campus (free to undergrads):

- Health Center x93131
- Counseling Center x93141; support group available
- Wylan Ganote, RD x94225

If your friend denies that there is a problem (which is very common), consider talking to a physician or counselor yourself.

While you can't force others to change, sometimes you can benefit from some support yourself and can discuss your concerns.

BTW, guys can get eating disorders too, though symptoms tend more toward compulsive exercise than food rituals and restrictions.

If you are concerned about a friend's or your own eating habits, you might be interested in attending *The Thin Line*, presented on campus March 8.

Dr.B

Sources for more information on eating disorders:

www.anred.com
www.edap.org
www.aedweb.org

Dieting Truth or Dare: Is Atkins Fad or Fact?

Have you ever been in a restaurant and witnessed friends pick apart their hamburgers piece by piece, breezily telling you that they've started a new diet? The Atkins low-carbohydrate diet is surfing the country as thousands attempt the weight-loss craze.

Even Jay Leno on *The Tonight Show* takes a few jabs at the new diet fad:

"Of course people on the Atkins diet are losing weight—they're dying!"

But how healthy has the Atkins diet proven to be? While some believe the guaranteed rapid weight loss is the best way to go, other researchers and dieticians disagree.

Researchers from Harvard's HEALTHbeat, for example, indicate that the Atkin's diet is an efficient way to lose weight fast. A study of 53 obese women proved that those on the low-carbohydrate diet shed twice as much weight as those on low-calorie, low-fat diets.

By cutting carbohydrates during a two-week "induction" period of the Atkins diet, the body receives high doses of protein and fat with little calories, resulting in weight loss. This process, called *ketosis*, allows for the fat to be burned versus the non-existent carbohydrates.

While the prospect of guaranteed fast weight loss sounds exciting, dieters are encouraged to look at the long-term effects of a "fad" diet, like the Atkins.

Like any diet that has not been tested over long periods of time, the new Atkins diet cannot insure healthy long-term affects. In the eyes of many dieticians, Atkins is a sufficient diet for jump-starting the metabolism.

Nevertheless, research has proven the healthfulness of the diet only up to one year. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease could be a big risk from participating in the Atkins diet because of all the red meat and protein consumed.

While conducting research, the American Diabetes Association also notes health risks concerning the kidneys because of excess protein and the ketosis stage.

The Atkins may be a sufficient way to lose weight fast, but considering the aftermath risks to your health, what you should put on your plate remains debatable.

• Erin McGovern
First-year

undeclared arts and sciences

Women's Centers unite!...

For information from and about other Women's Centers around the country, check out these Web sites:

- Emory Women's Center
www.emory.edu/WOMENS_CENTER
- Michigan State University Women's Center
www.msu.edu/~wrc

A longer list of centers can be found at
<http://creativefolk.com/wclinks/html/>

Women's Center Profiles

Women band together in "man's" field

Just twenty years ago, slightly over five percent of engineers in the workforce were women. Today that number has increased to only 11 percent, lagging far behind most other fields.

Fortunately, there are organizations dedicated to changing the stereotype of engineering and encouraging women's achievements in the field.

Even better, University of Dayton students have one of these wonderful resources right at their fingertips.

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) offers membership to both men and women in engineering, engineering technology and computer science; and signing up is as simple as filling out an online form and submitting a small national fee. Society members enjoy benefits like networking, company tours and speakers.

SWE facts:

- National Undergraduate Enrollment: **Women 19.7%**
- National Graduate Enrollment: **Women 18.5%**
- Membership is over 17,000 in 90 professional sections and 300 student sections
- When the Society of Women Engineers began in 1950, less than 10% of students in engineering classes were women.
- The Society of Women Engineers is the largest non-profit educational and service organization representing both student and professional women in engineering and technical fields

"We try to organize several company tours a year," UD chapter president Kristin Muckley said. "This helps our members decide what they are interested in and learn something about that field of industry or a certain technology."

Students find the group a valuable resource in job hunting. They can check out listings on SWE's Web site and

meet individuals in their fields of interest. The society also hosts a yearly career fair, and the National SWE offers scholarships for its student members.

The group also gives students from different disciplines a chance to meet and socialize. Social Chair Lindsay Hug is responsible for planning events like cookouts where the women get to know one another.

Another way the society bonds is through service. Projects have included TechFest and tutoring in "engineering" labs at Wogaman Elementary. Events are particularly beneficial for first-years who may be eager to meet others with similar interests. Hug notes that she is often one of as few as three girls in a class. "We provide a way for [first-years] to meet their peers," says Muckley. "We help them with classes if they need it also."

With few women in the engineering department, SWE is a valuable tool in creating female alliances and contacts, and they are accepting members. Contact Kristin at mucklekm@notes.udayton.edu or visit www.udayton.edu/~swe/.

• Ashley Neu
Women's Center Writer

Energy is key in alternative medicine

Jan Lively has literally searched around the world for a cure for her cancer and, in doing so, has discovered the benefits of eastern alternative medicine.

Battling breast cancer for the past five years, Lively has begun to overcome her disease through a combination of traditional western medicine, including chemotherapy and prescription drugs, and eastern practices such as Qi Gong (pronounced chee-gong) and Reiki (ray-kee).

While she is not yet completely cured, Lively said studying alternative medicine has given her

hope for her future.

Through her ordeal, Lively has not only learned to practice Qi Gong, but has begun teaching this alternative practice that is based on gentle movements that facilitate the flow of energy throughout the body. Lively studied Qi Gong in China from the founder of the practice and has trained with Luke Chan, the T'ai Chi instructor who brought Qi Gong to the United States.

This winter, Lively has begun a Qi Gong class at the Women's Center for UD faculty and staff.

I recently sat down with Jan to talk about her experiences with alternative medicine. The following are excerpts from our conversation:

JR: Why do you believe alternative medicine worked for you and why do you want to share your experience with other people?

JL: I've come to learn through my journey, my studies, my reading and my work with people, that healing is a natural process that all of us have access to. We're made to heal our bodies.

For chronic illnesses... western medicine tends to rely a lot on prescribing medication... but there are other approaches that people can do for themselves that give us a reason why we have the illness to begin with –

something deeper. Whereas western medicine tends to treat symptoms and take care of the problem at surface level, if you get into eastern/Asian medicine they try to go to the root of the problem and get at it that way.

In my own personal experience I've done both western medicine – when I was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer I took chemotherapy – and at the same time I started eastern practices.

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Voices Raised

Stools

We had some stools in my kitchen for a while, shiny pressed wooden ones with green legs and peach-colored pads. They went with a tiny table that operated as an island amidst the sea of the family kitchen. My mother had a place on the stool nearest the oven, between the sink and the door, just diagonal from the refrigerator. Every day after school I could find her sitting on that stool, flipping contentedly through magazine after magazine, picking out silly new things to buy, since the family credo was that money buys stuff and stuff makes life better. Her place was at that stool, always there, always steady, always in this world of her own, commanding the kitchen but very alone. No one sat on that stool except her. From that stool she would holler for me to do my chores, shriek at my little siblings for silence, make herself snacks of pixie sticks and vanilla wafers, endure the barking of the dog or the barking of her husband. I watched her sit upon that stool through all my high school years, through my adolescent banter, my crying, my glee, my suicide threats and my misplaced rage. I watched her assume three pregnancies on that stool, and slouch through two miscarriages. One night I watched her take her place on that stool and sip away a bottle of wine in an attempt to mend the pain of heart that comes with a cheating husband. And then one day I came home from college and all the stools were gone, the tiny island too. And in its stead we had a raw expensive antique dining room table, with seating for eight and marble inlay. Because money buys stuff and stuff makes life better. But my mother doesn't have anywhere to sit anymore. And I don't like to come home much anymore either.

Erica Nooney
Senior
visual communication
design major

Story reprinted with permission
from Orpheus Fall 2003



"Serenity"

Jennifer Rogers
Senior journalism major

Photo taken at Serenity Pines beside
Marycrest Complex at the University of Dayton

*"Great things are not done by impulse,
but by a series of small things brought
together."*

Vincent Van Gogh

Small grants seed great projects for women faculty

University of Dayton women who are on the upward tenure track have a place to turn for additional assistance thanks to the Office of the Provost and the Women's Center Summer Research Grant program.

Last summer, the Women's Center awarded grants-in-aid and stipends to assist 13 tenure-track faculty women in the development of scholarly research or creative work.

Grants-in-aid are available to support the acquisition of resources, including travel, software and subjects for research projects. Stipends are intended to provide support to faculty members during the May through

August months so they can focus on their research.

The awards averaged around \$700 and were used by these women for an array of projects, research studies and supply needs.

Emily Hicks, head of bibliographic management at the Roesch Library, applied and received a grant-in-aid to buy a number of books to help in her research of metadata.

Hicks is a member of an OhioLink regional committee and takes part in a task force that works to define standards for information on digital media within the OhioLink database. The books she was able to buy with her grant were invaluable to her research as part of this committee, she said.

Ellen Fleischmann, assistant professor of history, received a grant-in-aid which helped defray travel expenses to Beirut, Lebanon, where she spent a month doing archival research and oral history about American Protestant missionaries' work with Middle Eastern Women.

Clare Talwalker, assistant professor of anthropology, applied for a stipend to support her while she researched and wrote an article that was accepted and recently published by an anthropological journal.

"It's important to send out a message to women faculty — and faculty at large — that research is important," Talwalker said. "And that the institution is willing to put money behind it to show their

appreciation of this fact."

Hicks agreed that the research grants were a great opportunity for faculty women.

"It's important for every pre-tenure woman to pursue any opportunity they have that will help them along the way," she said. "There's no downside to applying — you have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Applications for 2004 Summer Research Grants from the Women's Center will be available soon.

• Jennifer Rogers
Women's Center Intern

Wellness and well-being are benefits of Qi Gong

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First of all I started the Qi Gong practice, which is to restore energy in the body... Eastern systems (of healing) look at the body as an energetic system, not just a group of organs and body parts.

It's a whole, integrated system of energy. The reason we get sick is that the energy normally moves smoothly along these pathways bringing energy where ever it's needed in the body. When you're sick, for some reason these energy pathways get stuck or blocked somewhere and illness starts to occur.

To heal ourselves we simply need to release those blockages, to bring fresh energy to the body and move the energy through the pathways to release the blockages or to restore energy to areas that are deficient, then the illness goes away.

JR: How exactly does one do Qi Gong?

JL: It's a combination of gentle movements that are designed to facilitate the flow of chi through the pathways of the body. And it involves the mind's intent — how we are focusing our attention on the body, so the body and the mind are working together through the energy to restore health. It's a mind and body connection.

JR: Why did you decide to start teaching Qi Gong to other people?

JL: It was very important to me to be able to share this with other people, especially other women with breast cancer, so they can experience the same results that I was getting. It became part of my life's purpose to bring this to other people.

Qi Gong is a lifestyle — I will probably do Qi Gong for the rest of my life, and I will do this kind of work for the rest of my life because I have experienced the benefits of it and it's more than about healing, it's about good health overall.

It promotes wellness, a sense of well-being and advancement

of the whole person... I feel that teaching is part of my healing process. I feel that by sharing this with other people, it also supports me because when you have a group of people doing this practice together, you bring even more energy into the group. So I'm just benefiting from all the good energy.

JR: Do you find that more women than men are interested in learning about alternative medicine?

JL: I think in general women have been more open to alternative practices; they're more willing to consider it or to try it, whereas many men tend to rely solely on western medicine — going to the doctor — and they want the science behind it.

We don't really have the force of science behind Qi Gong yet. There are studies being done to demonstrate that there are benefits, but it's not an easy field to quantify. I think we're going to see, over the next few decades, more science that comes out behind it, but it's just going to take time.

JR: Why do you think alternative practices are becoming more popular in the U.S.?

JL: I think people are experiencing the benefits (of alternative healing); they're feeling better... it brings them some kind of relief and they can handle the illness much better.

I think they also find it very empowering, that this is something that they can do for themselves. Once you learn it... you just have to do it for yourself. And if you're empowered to do it for yourself, every day you're giving energy to your body.

To read the entire transcript of our interview, please visit our online newsletter at womenscenter.udayton.edu.

• Jennifer Rogers
Women's Center Intern

From the Director's Desk

Collaboration is key to the Women's Center's Impact

The previous article about Women's History Month (WHM) is really a testament to the power of collaboration. It's no exaggeration to say that most, if not all, of these March events celebrating the contributions of women wouldn't be happening were it not for collaboration between the Women's Center and some other department or organization.

For example, a group of Women's Studies faculty expressed interest in doing a film series during WHM. We offered logistical, financial and promotional assistance, and the result is "Women's Stories, Women's Cameras," a 4-part film and discussion series that celebrates women's artistic accomplishments while sharing the stories of women from a round the globe.

Likewise, we had planned to bring the Silent Witness display to campus right before Spring Break, but when Dr. Don Polzella inquired about it for the Feb. 27-28 Violence Against Women conference he was organizing, we rescheduled it for Feb. 25 – March 3 to accommodate both the conference and WHM.

Feminist poet and author Marge Piercy's visit March 8 and 9 is a three-way collaboration between the Women's Center, the English Department – organizers of Litfest – and the Distinguished Speakers Series. We initiated negotiations last fall to bring Piercy to campus in March for a celebration of the 25th anniversary of UD's Women's Studies program. Early in the negotiations the Litfest organizers heard about Piercy's visit and worked with us to secure her as the headliner for both events.

The Distinguished Speakers Series, looking for an

opportunity to bring a woman speaker to campus in March, linked up with our efforts and ultimately added Piercy to their lineup.

The end result is that all three parties came together in such a way that each was able to fulfill their needs at a fraction of what any one of us would have paid, and the UD community will reap the benefit.

These are just three examples of the collaborative style that has allowed our fledgling Women's Center and its volunteer WHM committee to put together a celebration of women unlike anything UD's seen in the past.

Take note – this is just the beginning of a new era of Women's History Month celebrations and of the Women's Center's collaborations on other important initiatives, some of which will be highlighted in future issues of this newsletter.

From opening day it's been repeatedly said that if the Women's Center is doing programming and initiatives without partners, we're not fulfilling our mission. It is in working with partners that we will accomplish much more than we could alone and, in doing so, really begin to make UD a place where all – women and men – "...are supported, challenged and prepared to learn, lead and serve."

• Lisa Rismiller

Women's Center Director

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