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## Voices Raised, Issue 33

University of Dayton. Women's Center

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# Voices Raised

## UD's new Coordinator of Sexual Violence Prevention Education

We would like to welcome Jennifer Bodnar as a new addition to the UD community. Jennifer started in September filling a first-of-its-kind position at UD: Coordinator of Sexual Violence Prevention Education. This position is focused on collaborating with staff, faculty, and students to develop and implement a comprehensive sexual violence prevention education plan. As the previous Director of Violence Prevention at Lock Haven University with a Master's of Science in Educational Psychology, a Bachelor's of Science in Communication, and experience as a victim advocate, Jennifer brings great expertise to UD.

As mentioned in Issue 32 of this newsletter, the Sexual Misconduct Education, Prevention, and Response Task



Force (SMEPRTF) worked last year to examine UD's existing education, prevention, and response structures for sexual assault. The Task Force, charged by Provost Dr. Joe Saliba, included a collection

of dedicated administrators, faculty, and students. Based on their extensive research, in the summer of 2011 the SMEPRTF co-chairs submitted a final report to the Provost highlighting an urgent need for prevention education, including a request for this Coordinator position.

In addition, in April 2011 the U.S. Department of Education and its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) published a *Dear Colleague* letter containing further clarifications of universities' responsibilities under Title IX. *Dear Colleague* emphasized that all forms of sexual violence, even sexual assault, are forms of sexual harassment long prohibited by Title IX. The OCR requires schools to provide extensive prevention education to all

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### Women's Center

Alumni Hall, 2nd Floor

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Monday-Friday  
Other times by reservation

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## Nancy Mairs: Walking with God and Literature

The University of Dayton is hosting the 2011 Midwest regional meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature (CCL), with the theme this year being "The Deeds of Love in the Service of Peace", on October 28-29. Many scholars and writers from across the country will come to share their work on the topic of "the relation of love and peace in literature." After the event, Dr. Nancy Mairs will give a presentation. UD is honored to have Nancy Mairs here on campus to promote that "distinct benefits may be derived for Christian teachers of literature and the institutions they serve by a closer affiliation"

and that "CCL is an excellent way to provide that bond" (<http://www.pepperdine.edu/sponsored/ccl/info/>).

If one is struggling in between religions, or questioning faith altogether, Nancy Mairs' work is sure to help soothe the burns of frustration and angst. However, Mairs' work does not solely revolve around that of religion, but also varies between death, love, illness, and how to play with the cards life continuously deals you. Mairs' focus on Christianity and literature begs the audience to dig deep within themselves to uncover their deepest feelings about all of the elements of her novels, poems,

and audio recordings.

Mairs, originally a Congregationalist from New England, converted to Catholicism and has since shown her passion for this religion. Being a Catholic feminist, Mairs observes their contradictory natures, but holds onto the deep roots within both their foundations. She has a lengthy list of publications including: *A Dynamic God* (2008), *A Troubled Guest: Life and Death Stories* (2002), *Voice Lessons: On Becoming a (Woman) Writer* (1997), *Ordinary Time: Cycles in Marriage, Faith, and Renewal*

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# What's Going On?

## Be A Better You: Love Your Body Month\* October, 2011

### October 1st-9th

#### October 1st-30th

"Under Our Noses: Modern-day Slavery and  
What You Can Do About It"  
UD Women's Center  
Monday-Friday 9:00AM- 5:00PM

#### October 4th

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Brown Bag Lunch Performance  
Torch Lounge, KU  
12PM-1PM

### October 3rd

"Under Our Noses: Modern-day Slavery and  
What You Can Do About It"  
Opening Reception  
Women's Center  
5PM-9PM

### October 4th

19th Annual Humanities Symposium  
Exploring Religion and Mass Culture in  
Dayton, OH 1930-1950  
Sears Recital Hall  
4:30 PM-6:30PM

### October 10th-16th

#### October 11th

Dance Workshops with Dayton Contemporary  
Dance Company: DCDC Fit  
McGinnis Center  
8:30PM-10:00PM

#### October 14th

ArtStreet Friday Film Series:  
"The Price of Sex" (Human Trafficking)  
ArtStreet Screening Room B  
9:00PM

### October 12th

"Getting the most out of your MD appointment"  
Kennedy Union 331  
12:00PM-1:00PM

### October 13th

Speaking of Women's Health drawing  
Women's Center

### October 15th

Girlfriend Ride Dayton  
Artemis Center: 310 W. Monument Ave.  
Registration will be from 9AM-10AM at Artemis Center  
Cost: \$35 Girly-Bird (Before 10/15) \$50 (day of)

### October 17th-23th

#### October 18th

Dance Workshops with Dayton Contemporary  
Dance Company: DCDC Fit  
McGinnis Center  
8:30PM-10:00PM

### October 17th-31st

LYBM display in KU Lobby

### October 21st

Book Discussion: "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle"  
Women's Center Room 211  
12PM-1PM

### October 24th-31th

#### October 25th

"Heart Healthy Living: Ten simple steps to making  
good habits more delicious"  
Kennedy Union 331  
12PM-1PM

#### October 26th

Food for the Soul: Exploring the Legacy  
Kennedy Union 207  
11:30AM-1PM  
Reservation required 9-2899

### October 26th

University of Dayton Speaker Series: Ottmar Edenhofer  
Kennedy Union Ballroom  
8PM

### October 27th

CRWG: Should Undocumented "Migrantes Be Illegal?"  
Women's Center Conference Room  
12PM-1PM  
Reservation required 9-4285

### October 28th

Conference on Christianity & Literature  
Sears Recital Hall 3:30PM

\*For more information visit: [www.womenscenter.udayton.edu/calender](http://www.womenscenter.udayton.edu/calender) Continues on 10/29 from 9AM-5PM



## A Woman's Calling to Catholic Faith

Starting in an all girl's high school, Crystal Sullivan went into college hoping to study science. It wasn't until her senior year that Sullivan believes that she heard her true calling. Through the help of several mentors in the Catholic faith, Sullivan changed her focus of study to theology and then went on to get a Masters in Ministry at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts. For the next 10 years Sullivan settled in Iowa working as a campus minister counseling young women and establishing leadership programs. After her time in Iowa she felt the need to grow further in her faith and career; when the University of Dayton called in 2004, Sullivan answered that call as Associate Director of Campus Ministry. With the departure of Fr. Chris Wittmann, S.M., Sullivan became the director of Campus Ministry in July 2011, making her the first woman and first lay person to hold this position at the University of Dayton. Sullivan's journey to this point wasn't without its obstacles and frustrations though.

"Women in the Catholic faith can't be ordained, which means they can't be priests. It was like seeing a glass ceiling. I knew that I could offer more than what I was being allowed to. For a long time, and even now on some days, I struggle with my role as a woman in my faith," said Sullivan when asked if she had any struggles in her journey. Sullivan was not swayed by her situation, however; after some time she realized she didn't need to be ordained to fill the purpose God had for her. Being the first woman and first lay person in her position at UD is a huge honor. She feels at ease with the team in Campus Ministry and believes that UD is the best place for a change like this to take place.

"I'm sure there are alumni, or other people out there in the community watching my every move, wondering if they can count on me to do this job. But I don't worry about that because I believe in myself and I'm going to do this job the best that I can do," said Sullivan. She said that though she does struggle with her role as a woman sometimes, she feels like God will always be



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## W.O.R.D. Women of Remarkable Distinction

Heads up, UD! There's a new campus organization out there, encouraging the empowerment of women. W.O.R.D. (Women of Remarkable Distinction) is working, as we speak, for the betterment of women of all walks of life. Perhaps the best synopsis of the new organization is in their mission statement:

"Women of Remarkable Distinction (W.O.R.D.) is established to unite women of all different cultural and social backgrounds, both on our campus and within the greater Dayton area, through service and leadership, in a common cause to build and strengthen relationships amongst each other, with goals to ultimately foster the well-being of the female spirit and enhance the design of womanhood. W.O.R.D. seeks to serve as an advocate for social change among women and to serve as a voice of awareness, with an emphasis on the unique struggles of women of color." -W.O.R.D. Mission Statement (Student Organization Constitution-Courtesy of Lauren Porter, Founder and President)

After speaking with W.O.R.D.'s president and founder, Lauren Porter, last week, it is evident that it is more than just a new student organization on campus. Porter became interested in the empowerment and unity of women after completing

several Women & Gender Studies classes here at UD. Porter and a few friends decided to take action and founded an organization based on the common principles they shared, as stated above. There's an essence to this organization that Porter feels incredibly passionate about: "W.O.R.D. is more than a campus organization to me. It is another effort to the betterment of women in every aspect. I've always been very passionate about eliminating injustices towards women."

This personal motivation has transformed, with the help and support of many, into a campus opportunity for all UD students. In fact, on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, W.O.R.D. hosted one of its first events, a suicide awareness fair that took place on campus. With help from the University of Dayton Counseling Center and the well-known national organization, "To Write Love on Her Arms" (TWLOHA), W.O.R.D. was incredibly pleased with the turn-out and amount of student involvement. Porter particularly expressed her excitement for the organization's long-term service project beginning this month. W.O.R.D. will facilitate a young women's empowerment program at the Dakota Center on October 14<sup>th</sup> with the

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## *From the Director's Desk*

### October Optimism

While October is undoubtedly my favorite month of the year weather-wise, it occurred to me as Pattie and I discussed the topics the Women's Center is focusing on this month that October also has the potential to be a real bummer! Breast cancer and domestic violence; October is the official "month" for both. Human trafficking, a scourge with millions of women victims worldwide, will be on display throughout October in the Women's Center via the "Under Our Noses: Modern-day Slavery and What You Can Do About It" exhibit created by UD Political Science and Human Rights students. Jennifer Bodnar, one of UD's newest staff members, has been hired to ramp up UD's sexual violence prevention education efforts.

All in all, the need for these awareness-raising efforts could paint a fairly grim picture for women. But, being the optimist that I am I try to focus on the "positive" aspects of these issues. Take breast cancer for example. As pink ribbons have proliferated, advances in breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and long-term survival have made impressive strides. Most women now know of the importance of regular self and physician exams, and hopefully most follow those recommendations. (Now if we could just make similar progress

with women and heart disease, we'd be much better off!)

Sexual violence in all its forms, including domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault, is still among us, still injuring and killing way too many women each year, but laws and law enforcement responses have improved somewhat. Current best practices in preventing sexual assault on campuses revolve around engaging entire campus communities as "bystanders" who are educated and empowered to intervene when they see students heading down a potentially dangerous path. UD's strong sense of community ought to make sexual assault prevention through bystander intervention a natural fit here. And while the New Abolitionists, a UD student organization focused on bringing attention and an end to human trafficking in the U.S., has created an exhibit about the trafficking that's going on literally "under our noses", they don't stop there. After helping us "see", they offer myriad ways to get involved to help stop it.

So I guess I'll resist October's "bummer potential" by focusing on the progress that's already been made and how we're positioned to continue that progress. Probably not next year, but perhaps it's not too far into the future that we will no longer need to create focused awareness on any of these issues. Maybe someday....

-Lisa Rismiller