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## Voices Raised, Issue 46

University of Dayton. Women's Center

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# VOICES RAISED



Alumni Hall, 2nd Floor  
300 College Park  
Dayton, OH  
45469-0322

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

Phone: 937-229-5390  
Fax: 937-229-3130

Director  
Lisa Rismiller

Programming  
Coordinator  
Margaret Murray

Administrative  
Assistant  
Karen Barrett

Graduate Assistant  
Tessa Terrell '16

Communication  
Manager & Editor  
Amanda Dee '16

## Get to Work:

### Feminism Isn't a Reality in the American Dream

Would you vote for a woman president?  
Of course.  
Then, why hasn't a woman made it to  
the Oval Office?

As the keynote of Women's History Month, Karrin Vasby Anderson, Ph.D., and Kristina Horn Sheeler, Ph.D., will speak about what it would take for a woman to be elected, in Sears Recital Hall March 30 at 7 p.m.

Vasby Anderson and Horn Sheeler met in doctoral classes at Indiana University, where they researched presidential spouses and women in positions of executive leadership in terms of communication and popular culture studies.

Their 2013 book, "Woman President: Confronting Postfeminist Political Culture" and the focus of their presentation, examines Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin during the 2008 presidential campaign, labeled "a good year" for women in politics. Vasby Anderson and Horn Sheeler argue that when MSNBC anchors publicly compare Clinton's voice to a shrill wife and all women in the political sphere must still tryingly deflect gendered attacks, we need to address these issues as ones ingrained in our society.

"If you think that feminism's work is basically done," Vasby Anderson continued, "and women have what they need to succeed in politics, read this book."

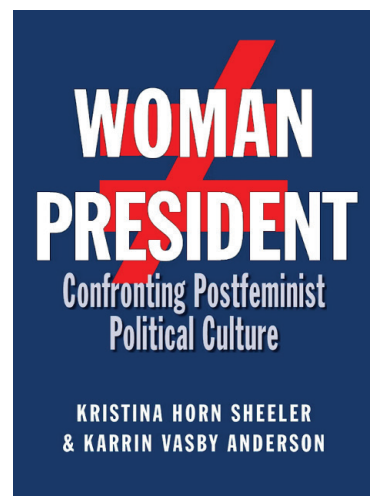


Photo (left) from [textsfromhillaryclinton.tumblr.com](http://textsfromhillaryclinton.tumblr.com), Vasby Anderson's favorite on the website. Photo (above) from cover of "Woman President."

Vasby Anderson and Horn Sheeler refuse to give prospective female politicians advice (for they aren't the ones who need it). They will, however, give advice to voters.

"We have the power, as voters, consumers and audience members to demand more from our political and popular culture. In a democracy, it's the people's responsibility to engage in and improve politics. Let's all get to work."

—Amanda Dee '16,  
Communication Manager & Editor

Voices Raised is a free, once-a-semester publication that caters to faculty and staff needs and interests. If you would like to write or have a topic idea for Voices Raised, contact us at [wcnewsletter@udayton.edu](mailto:wcnewsletter@udayton.edu).

# WHAT'S GOING ON: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## International Tea Tasting & Poetry Reading

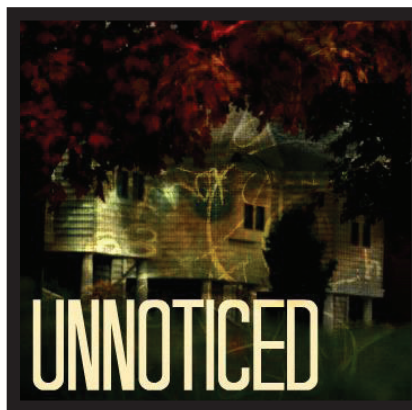
Thursday, March 12 - 1st Floor Roesch Library, 3-4:30 p.m.

In honor of International Women's Day (celebrated March 8), the Women's Center and the Center for International Programs are hosting afternoon tea and poetry readings. All are welcome to stop in and stay for as long as your schedule allows.

## "Unnoticed" Performance & Discussion

Thursday, March 19 - Sears Recital Hall, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Unnoticed" was originally performed as part of ArtStreet's White Box Theatre Festival and was written by UD student Kwynn Townsend Riley. The play addresses issues of race, gender and sexual assault and will be followed with a panel discussion around these topics.



## The Art of Yoga: An Intersection of Writing & Body Movement

Tuesday, March 24 - ArtStreet Studio E, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join ArtStreet and the Women's Center as we explore the interconnectedness of mind, body and spirit through the intersection of yoga and poetry. This experience will be led by Sierra Leone of Oral Funk Poetry Productions. No previous yoga experience or writing expertise necessary.

### More Events:

- > "Woman President" keynote talk in Sears Recital Hall, March 30 at 7 p.m. (see front page)
- > Anita Sarkeesian presents "Equality or GTFO" in KU Ballroom, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. (see pg. 6)
- > To see the full calendar of events, visit [udayton.edu/womenscenter/programs/whm/whm-2015](http://udayton.edu/womenscenter/programs/whm/whm-2015).

## 2015 Miryam Award Winners: Breaking the 'Boys Club' of Kettering Labs

As Abigail Spohn threw her hands up and shouted "YES!" Malcolm Daniels thought "wow!"

Spohn and her fellow members of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Daniels, the interim ETHOS director and a professor for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, had won the 2015 Miryam Award.

Every year, the Center for Social Concern organizes a committee representing UD students, faculty and staff recognizes, with the Miryam Award, groups or individuals who go beyond their normal duties to enhance the campus climate for women. This year, the members of SWE and Daniels were chosen for bettering the climate in Kettering Labs and supporting women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

"Engineering," Daniels' nominator and fellow faculty member Margaret Pinnell said, "is a very male dominated field. As such, women sometimes are not listened to. Malcolm always goes out of his way to make sure that every person has a voice."

To ensure female STEM students have a voice, the members of SWE network with local and national female engineers and professionals. They also organize events and presentations for them, according to SWE-affiliate and nominator Katelyn Dvorsky. Last year, the organization hosted Dr. Valerie Young, who addressed how to overcome the gender disparity in STEM fields and how to raise awareness for both women and men.

Another requisite of the award is reflecting the university's Marianist values. And Daniels, according to Pinnell, "gets the whole Marianist thing."

Daniels' other nominator and fellow engineering faculty member, Rebecca Blust, said



Society of Women Engineers. Photo from SWE's website.

the Advance LEADER program, which aims to challenge people to start conversations about the "status quo," created equity advisor positions in the school of engineering and started grants for female faculty.



Malcolm Daniels

According to Blust, "changing the culture of the UD campus to be more inclusive and supportive of female faculty" would not have been possible without Daniels.

"Given all the great women faculty, staff and students on campus and all the great work that they do," Daniels said, "I'm honored to be included in their company."

*This year's prayer service and Miryam Award reception will be held in Chaminade Hall and, following immediately, in the KU Torch Lounge March 25 at 4:30 p.m. To RSVP, call the Center for Social Concern at (937)229-2524.*

—Amanda Dee '16,  
Communication Manager & Editor



## FEATURE: WOMEN HELPING WOMEN



### A Closet for 18,000

In 1998, 14 women created a closet to help 250 under-resourced women dress for the workplace.

In 2014, that closet—now called Clothes That Work—served more than 18,000 clients, 65 percent of which were women, according to Executive Director and University of Dayton alumna Paula Cosby.

“A group of business women came together to help reduce the challenges of other women in the community that stemmed from the Welfare Reform Act [WRS],” she said. “The group literally grew from grassroots. They had dinner, glasses of wine, and decided, ‘This is what we can do!’ They galvanized friends and family and started this closet.”

While the WRS brought job opportunities, it also built barriers to those jobs. About 8,000 female heads of household lacked transportation, childcare and clothing. That’s when these 14 women realized they could make a difference reducing and eliminating the clothing barrier.

Clothes can say a lot before anything is said at all. In seconds, an employer can make decisions about a potential employee.

Too many women in the Dayton community, however, do not have the resources to put together a polished image to feel professional and confident about their personal brand.

“Women helping women: it’s what we’re founded on, and it’s still a guiding principle.”




Paula Cosby

“Clothes That Work helps provide that, regardless of what a person needs,” Cosby said. “Forty-five percent of hiring is based on ‘packages.’ If we eliminate that anxiety, we’re helping that job-seeker to give the best impression, increase [chances of his or her] employment, get on a stable path of independence and self-reliance and achieve their goals”

Clothes That Work gives job-seekers the opportunity to find quality items that fit their personal style and workplace—and limited resources do not limit the clothing selection.

“You don’t have to spend a lot of money on high quality items. We are very meticulous about the kinds of clothing we take. If it’s donated, we only take the cream of the crop,” Cosby said. “I would not put anyone in anything that I wouldn’t wear. We are only putting out the best of the best in the area.”

And Clothes That Work doesn’t stop at professional clothing.



"We talk to them one-on-one: image counseling, body language, all the things a perspective employer would be looking at. It could be a person who's never been in the workplace before or someone who hasn't been in years. We help them understand soft skills that are important to employers, like eye contact and handshakes," Crosby said. "We take nothing for granted."

As a self-sustaining, nonprofit organization, the support for Clothes That Work goes further than the founding mothers and executive team.

"We could not do what we do without the commitment and dedication of volunteers. Ninety-five to 98 percent of our volunteers are women. Of course, we still help men, but we're here to support other women," Cosby said.

"Women helping women: it's what we're founded on, and it's still a guiding principle, whether they want to give back through volunteerism or get back on their feet."

*Clothes That Work is also a partner with the Women's Center for "Campus to Career: Bridging the Gap," which will be held at the River Campus, 1700 South Patterson Boulevard, March 10. To volunteer regularly, raise awareness or plan a clothing drive with Clothes That Work, you can submit a volunteer application at [www.clothesthatwork.org/can-help](http://www.clothesthatwork.org/can-help).*

—CC Hutten '15,  
Student Contributor

## Treasure for Those Who Need it



Hannah's Treasure Chest is a nonprofit organization in the Miami Valley that provides new or gently used clothing, books, equipment and toys to children under the age of 18 at no cost to the family. The UD Women's Center is a partner and the point of contact for members of the UD community. For the Women's Center to refer University of Dayton students and staff who are parents or guardians to Hannah's Treasure Chest, a family needs and profile analysis must be completed, which includes a request for items for the child or children. Hannah's Treasure Chest fulfills the request by providing clothing, toys, books and other applicable items based on the analysis. The order is given to a UD Women's Center staff member by Hannah's Treasure Chest and can then be picked up in the Women's Center by the parent or guardian. A request can be made every three months by each family.

*If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving items from Hannah's Treasure Chest, please contact the Women's Center at (937)229-5390 or [womenscenter@udayton.edu](mailto:womenscenter@udayton.edu).*



## 'Equality or GTFO':

### Navigating the Gendered Minefield of Online Harassment



Anita Sarkeesian

Anita Sarkeesian has been in the media spotlight in recent months, appearing on "The Colbert Report," as well as the front page of The New York Times. Sarkeesian runs the website Feminist Frequency, and her

analysis and activism opposing misogyny in the tech and gaming worlds have been drawing a lot of attention—from supporters, certainly, but also from more hostile sources.

Beginning in 2012 when she launched a Kickstarter project to fund the production of her "Tropes vs. Women in Video Games" series, Sarkeesian has been the target of relentless online harassment, intimidation and terror. The dynamic has escalated recently in the so-called "Gamergate" movement, in which prominent women in the gaming community—including Sarkeesian—have been driven from their homes by rape and death threats.

With generous support from a number of cosponsors, Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) is bringing Anita Sarkeesian to speak on campus later this spring. Sarkeesian will give her talk entitled "Equality or GTFO: Navigating the Gendered Minefield of Online Harassment" on Monday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom.

We are excited to welcome this brave and brilliant feminist media critic to UD!

—Rebecca Whisnant, Ph.D.  
Director of Women's and Gender Studies

#### ATTENTION ADVISORS:

**Intro to Women's & Gender Studies (WGS 250) now fulfills two CAP components**

For a number of years, students in WGS 150 have benefitted from an interdisciplinary, integrative first exposure to a range of issues and debates in women's and gender studies. The course addresses the ways in which gender—as it intersects with race, class, sexuality and more—shapes all of our lives.

The course, renumbered WGS 250, has now been approved as part of the Common Academic Program (CAP). Beginning in fall 2015, students in WGS 250 (Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies) can receive credit for two CAP components: Diversity and Social Justice, and Crossing Boundaries [Integrative].

WGS 250 will be taught by Dr. Denise James (PHL) in fall 2015. Advisors, please let your advisees—especially rising sophomores—know about this great opportunity to explore a new field while also working toward fulfilling their CAP requirements.

*For more information, contact WGS Administrative Assistant Karen Barrett at (937)229-4285.*

## VOICES HEARD: TRAILBLAZERS



Artwork by junior graphic design major Megan Gannon.

This month, the Women's Center will highlight women who have blazed the trails of history and contributed to the advancement of women. We invite the University of Dayton community to join us as we shine light on these female pioneers in our programming and on our Facebook and Twitter. Tag us and post your own trailblazers on Facebook and Twitter using #WomenTrailblazers.

**"The loneliest woman in the world is the woman without a close woman friend."**

-Toni Morrison, author

**"I used to think I was the strangest person in the world but then I thought there are so many people in the world, there must be someone just like me who feels bizarre and flawed in the same ways I do."**

- Frida Kahlo, artist

**"If there's specific resistance to women making movies, I just choose to ignore that as an obstacle for two reasons: I can't change my gender, and I refuse to stop making movies."**

- Kathryn Bigelow, director

**"If someone needs to express their gender in a way that is different, that is okay, and they should not be denied healthcare."**

**They should not be bullied.**

**They don't deserve to be victims of violence.**

**...That's what people need to understand."**

- Laverne Cox, actress

Follow us on Twitter @UDwomenscenter and "like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/UDaytonWomensCenter](https://www.facebook.com/UDaytonWomensCenter).

- Madeleine Albright



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Lisa Rismiller

Well, it's been a busy year for the Women's Center so far: new vision and mission statements, new colleagues and new ways of communicating with our various constituencies. This newsletter got some design tweaks, but, more importantly, it's now just for faculty and staff. In addition to writing to you, we'd also like to feature some of what you do or have accomplished. Whether it's poetry, photography or storytelling—or anything else you'd like to share with other UD women—let us know and we'll help you share your work or your story on the pages of this newsletter or on our blog, [udwomenscenter.wordpress.com](http://udwomenscenter.wordpress.com).

Despite all the changes, some things have or will remain constant. Read all about March's Women's History Month programming in this issue and watch for the return of the center's mentorship program for faculty and staff women this fall. In the meantime, we're here for you, so stop by the second floor of Alumni Hall or email us at [womenscenter@udayton.edu](mailto:womenscenter@udayton.edu).

— Lisa Rismiller,  
Women's Center Director