

Welcome Back!

Get to Know Our 2010-2011 Staff!

Susan Birns—This is my eleventh year as director of the Susan B. Anthony Women's Center. It seems only fitting since my mother almost named me Susan B. Anthony Birns. I look forward to another year working with a terrific student staff and advisory board, the entire campus community, and the extended Berkshire County community, as well. In addition to directing this center and teaching in the Department of Sociology, I currently serve as president of the board of directors of the Elizabeth Freeman Center (the county's domestic violence and sexual assault prevention services provider) and have a guest column on the Op Ed page of the Berkshire Eagle on women's issues. Expect a variety of activities from us this year, many of them revolving around our theme of "women in the media".

Hallie Jackson—My name is Hallie Jackson. I come to you in the beautiful Berkshires all the way from Knoxville, Tennessee. I am a sophomore here at MCLA double majoring in English literature and secondary education. I am also part of the Honors Program and spend my free time volunteering with MASSPIRG or coordinating The Write Stuff mentoring program through the Center for Service. This may be my second year on campus, but it is my first time working for the Women's Center. Growing up in a family of strong women (that's putting it mildly) has given me a strong personal connection to feminism. I'm particularly interested in feminism as a part of the Animal Right's Movement, international women's rights, and regional views on women within our own country. I'm excited to explore these issues as well as many more during my time here at the Women's Center.

Heather Lawson—Hi! Hello! My name is Heather Lawson, I am 20 years old from Groveland, Massachusetts. This is my first year at MCLA, as well as my first year working at the Women's Center. I am currently undecided as to what I will be majoring

in, but I am leaning towards a political or cultural major of some sort. But then again I could very well change my mind tomorrow. I am looking forward to my time at the Women's Center, and contributing my thoughts and ideas to the community.

Rhiannon Maher—My name is Rhiannon Maher. I am new on staff here at the Women's Center. I grew up on Cape Cod, but living in a vacation spot didn't shield me from the harsh realities facing women today. A freshman at MCLA, I know all too well the plight of teenage girls today. Girls are expected to do well at everything and have few resources when they make mistakes. The teenage years shape the women that girls become, and I am interested in how we can make it easier. I'm also interested in the correlation between the rise in teen pregnancies and the media. I am looking forward to new experiences and bringing my perspectives to the Women's Center.

Alex Nichipor—Ahoy there, matey! It's Alex Nichipor, returning to the Women's Center for a third year. I hail from Devens, Massachusetts, and I'm now in my junior year. I'm also a teaching assistant, a student ambassador, student representative to the Honors Council, and in addition to this, I'll be learning ancient Greek this semester (Chairete pantes! That means "hello all"). I've also added philosophy as a second major (will I ever declare that minor in women's studies? Only time will tell...). My areas of interest include women's health and the role of women in religion. At the COPLAC conference, I'll be presenting an original theory on the Song of Songs and biblical prophetesses. I intend to become a professor of religious studies focusing on women, sexuality, and gender in world religions. The Women's Center will be planning lots of great events and writing many interesting articles this year, so stay tuned. And feel free to stop by for a chat or a peaceful place to do homework.

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Get to Know Our 2010-2011 Staff Continued!

Skyla Seamans—Bonjour! My name is Skyla and I'm a sophomore studying English and communications with a concentration in journalism. Basically, I love to read and write. I'm also part of the Honors Program and have minors in women's studies and child and family studies. I am the vice president of STAGE (the awesome gender equality club I co-founded with my best friend), the treasurer of PILLARS (the community service club), as well as part of Friends for Foster Families and Good Vibes. I hail from a small town in Vermont called West Pawlet (population 300). You haven't been to the middle of nowhere until you visit my hometown, but I would never exchange my childhood experience with anyone; I just spent a lot of my time daydreaming. I have always longed to travel and, this year, my goal is to take a travel course to France during spring break (as well as get good grades, be involved, and all of that good stuff). I have never been out of the country so this is an experience I am not going to let pass me by. I just need to stumble upon three thousand dollars. Any ideas, e-mail me, please! Other than France, I would love to travel to new places and write about them. I'm aspiring to be a journalist and my ultimate goal is to write for a women's magazine, like Ms. Magazine or Bitch. Women's issues have always been a top priority of mine so I am especially excited to be back in the Women's Center for a second year. Come visit us (we have comfy couches)!



Fall Foliage Parade, 2009



Gender Equity Bake Sale, 2009

Brianna Vear—Hi All! My name is Brianna Vear. I am a sophomore who is majoring in political science with minors in women's studies, child and family studies and social work. After finishing here at MCLA, I want to go to law school. I aspire to be a family lawyer, and help battle child abuse and domestic violence. To me, there are no greater crimes than those committed against children, and I would like to dedicate my adult life to making a difference to at least a few children. I am very excited to be returning to the Women's Center for my second year. I am the president and co-founder of STAGE, Students Taking Action for Gender Equality. If you would like information about the group, feel free to stop by or email me. We have a lot of fun, and work to help people in our community. I love my MCLA friends and my Women's Center family. I can't wait to get to know the newest additions. My favorite quote wasn't one by some great scholar or politician, but rather a close friend of mine, who pointed out one day that "The worst case scenario is as rare as the best case scenario. Reality lives somewhere in the middle." I am a very competitive person, especially with my best friend and coworker Skyla, but because of it, we were able to create STAGE together. Did I mention how amazing STAGE is yet? Anyway, stop by the Women's Center sometime and say Hi!!

...Where is the Women's center?

- > Go to the campus center
- > Go to the third floor
- > Room 322... you can't miss us!



...Why would I go there?

You can come to us with inquiries about the women's studies minor, our events and our newsletter—but *we're also a resource and space for students*. If you need a quiet place to work or study, or you just want to kick back on our couches and relax, come and visit us! We also have a library of books and films about feminism, gender issues and more. Drop in anytime we're open.

...When is it open?

Fall 2009 Hours

Monday	9:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	9:00am - 5:00pm

...Who can tell me more?

Staff:

Director:	Susan Birns
Office Manager:	Alex Nichipor

Office Assistants:

Hallie Jackson	Skyla Seamans
Heather Lawson	Brianna Vear
Rhiannon Maher	

Advisory Board:

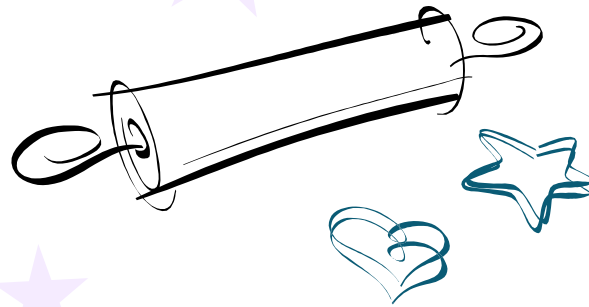
Maritsa Barros	Linda Kaufmann
Susan Birns	Celia Norcross
Charlotte Degen	Nancy Ovitsky
Michele Ethier	Graziana Ramsden
Kate Heekin	Beth Shaw
Petra Hejnova	Laini Sporbort
Frances Jones-Sneed	Amy Stevens
Monica Joslin	



Eighth Annual
Gender Equity
Bake Sale

Stuff the Wage Gap with Sweets!

WE NEED
VOLUNTEER BAKERS!



Wednesday, October 20th, 2010

Centennial Room

11:30am-1:30pm

Questions? Want to contribute a baked good?

Contact us: womenscenter@mcla.edu, x5497, or visit Campus Center Room 322.

All Genders
Welcome!

S. T. A. G. E.

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

We're all about equal rights and coming together to bridge the gap between the sexes in school, at work, at home, and anywhere else, for that matter. If you want not only your voice to be heard about inequality, but also want to actually take action to alter how gender at our school and in our society is perceived and plays out, this is the right place for you.



We meet **Sunday nights at 7:00 pm in the Women's Center**, which is on the third floor of the campus center, room 322. Come see what we're all about; everyone is welcome!

Our Plans for the Year!

Stage production (last year, we did the Vagina Monologues!), body positive events, book and movie discussions, speakers, clothesline project, domestic violence awareness, and so much more!



E-Board for 2010-2011:

President: Brianna Vear *Vice-President:* Skyla Seamans
Secretary: Emily Burke *Treasurer:* Peggy Gallaher

If you're interested, contact a member of the e-board via Firstclass for more information... or come to a meeting!

Susan B. Anthony Women's Center

Campus Center Room # 322

MCIA

North Adams, MA 01247

Phone: 413-662-5497

Email: womenscenter@mcla.edu

Mail to:

Coming This Fall
StereoTalk III:
Sexploitation of Women in Music!