



The Gender Spot

Volume I, Issue I

Newsletter

October 2006

Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Women and Gender Equity of Pacific University is to educate, advocate and support gender equality to facilitate collaborative, humane, and sustainable University, local and global communities.

Vision Statement

The board, staff and volunteers of the Center for Women and Gender Equity advocate a feminist paradigm shift to embrace and promote gender, cultural and racial equality; economic and social justice; and the intellectual and cultural growth of Pacific University students, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community. Programs and projects reflect and affirm the following values:

- The inherent worth and dignity of each person
- Justice, equity and compassion in all human relations
- The right of conscience
- Shared power and responsibility
- Shared information access
- Community building
- Respect for the interconnected web of life
- The non-violent resolution of conflicts

HOURS

Monday : 3:00 – 4:30pm

**Tuesday: 10:00am – 12:00pm
3:00pm – 5:00pm**

Wednesday: 11:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

CWGE Contact Info:

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LOCAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

SLAM POETRY FESTIVAL

(Pacific University: Oct. 19, 8-10pm)

The Center for Women and Gender Equity will be hosting the Slam Poetry Festival featuring local slam poet, Chatterbox, and an open mic featuring Pacific students and faculty. Come join us for an exciting evening of politically-conscious poetry and tasty refreshments.

Thursday, October 19th from 8-10:00 pm at the Milky Way. All poets welcome; open mic sign-up 8:00 ~ 8:30 pm

AIDS QUILT COMING TO PACIFIC

(Pacific University Library: Nov. 6-22)



[2005 Display in the Pacific University Library]

The AIDS Quilt will be on display in the Library from November 6 through November 22, 2006.

The AIDS Quilt began in 1987 as a memorial to those who died of AIDS. The AIDS Quilt has grown to a 54-ton tapestry that includes more than 45,000 panels dedicated to more than 88,000 individuals. It is the largest piece of community art in the world. While it illustrates the number of people lost to the epidemic it also helps families and communities heal from their losses. Additionally it confronts the

stigma attached to HIV/AIDS, opens a dialogue about the epidemic, promotes education, and motivates individuals to take direct action to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Pacific University display will feature 4 blocks. Each block contains 8 panels, each panel features the name of a loved one who has died of AIDS.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Women and Gender Equity, the Washington County Health Department HIV Prevention Program and Forest Grove PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

Hours for the Pacific University Library:
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - midnight
Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday noon - midnight



[The quilt at Capital Mall]

Si Se Puede: Chicana Resistance and Empowerment

(Portland: Oct. 26, 7:00)

A workshop on the history and current experiences of Chicanas working for social change featuring Professor Luz Maria Gordillo, Department of History, at Washington State University, Vancouver Campus and community activists Angie Mejia and Jazmin Rodriguez. Professor Gordillo will speak about the history of the Chicana movement in the United States. Ms. Mejia, a graduate student in Sociology at Portland State University and Ms. Rodriguez, a graduate of Washington State University, will comment on their experiences as Chicana women active in community and campus organizations and organizing campaigns. Following their presentations, audience members will engage in a facilitated discussion where all will

be encouraged to participate. Event at In Other Words, Women's Books and Resources 8b NE Killingsworth St. Portland, OR

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Work has just begun on Pacific University's second production of 'The Vagina Monologues'--Eve Ensler's poignant collection of short dramatic monologues dealing with women's issues, concerns and experiences. The show will be produced in mid-February as part of the world wide V-day campaign to stop violence against women and girls.

Open auditions will be held in mid-November. For more information or to get involved e-mail Calile Vandewiele at calliev@pacificu.edu

SPREADING HOPE IN AFRICA: AIDS, ORPHANS, AND ART

(Taylor Auditorium: November 16, 12-1:00pm)



[Kristen and teacher interviewing Happy Children's Centre (HCC) orphans for case histories of orphans]

The children of sub-Saharan Africa account for 85% of all the global cases of AIDS in children under age 15. There is also an estimated 12 million children orphaned by AIDS in this region. Kirsten Carpentier traveled to Kenya wanting to find ways to personalize the heart-numbing statistics of AIDS in Africa and to learn more about the complexity of the socioeconomic factors that have made AIDS spread so rapidly. Through art Kirsten found a vehicle for AIDS orphans to imagine a different life for themselves and she found that despite their dismal circumstances, these orphans were able to express inner strength and beauty in their artwork. Art has helped to bring a sense of self worth and expression to the children of Happy Children's

Centre AIDS orphanage, and it is hoped leadership will come with self-worth. Kirsten has been working with an AIDS orphanage in Malindi, Kenya to raise funds for a new school/residence and she has used the orphans' artwork to help with that effort.

On November 14 Kirsten will share photos and videos from her trips and share the orphans' amazing artwork and their portraits of resilience. Please look to Kirsten's blog at www.hcckenya.blogspot.com to learn more about the Happy Children's Centre AIDS orphanage.



[HCC orphans painting self-portraits]



[HCC orphan with her artwork]

(The Gender Spot will publish events of organizations that share CWGE mission and goals. E-mail information to jenifer@pacificu.edu by the second Monday of the month.)

PAST EVENTS:

MEN AND THE "F" WORD PANEL REVIEW

On October 10th, an esteemed panel of male faculty and student delved into the world of Men and Feminism. Our panel was composed of Professors Todd Shultz, Adam Rafalovich, and Jeff Seward. The two student members were Kevin Butler and Ryan Broughan. Drawing on their own personal experiences with the Feminism of their youth and now the panel explored the definitions of Feminism. From these beginnings, the discussion explored the role of Feminism in our society, and the amazing changes that have taken place. Finally, the panel discussed Feminism in relation to men. A group consensus was reached that Feminism is both good for men and has changed their lives for the better. Jeff Seward reflected that he believed it had completely altered the relationship between men and women at the most fundamental level. It was a fascinating experience to here men's thoughts on Feminism, especially the thoughts of our fellow male students and professors.

THE FACE OF CWGE: Lesley Bart



[Lesley with Eve Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues* at the American Association of University Women's 2006 National Conference for Women Student Leaders]

I am very excited about being the Center for Women and Gender Equity's student director for the 2006-2007 school year. I am a self-proclaimed "feminist theory nerd" and CWGE has been the perfect match for satisfying my desire to connect theory with action. Since my first year at Pacific in 2003, I have seen so many positive changes within the university and our community that I believe are

an outcome of activism and education, especially regarding women and sexual minorities.

I am looking forward to continuing the Center for Women and Gender Equity's tradition of providing Pacific with a year's worth of exciting, and engaging programs and events. My own focus within CWGE is working on programming about sexual assault. I am very excited about planning and coordinating Forest Grove and Pacific University's first Take Back The Night March, which will take place in the spring of 2007.

Being raised in Olympia, Washington, a hot bed for progressive politics and social activism, ignited my passion for feminist activism. Since starting at Pacific University, I have had the opportunity to broaden my own views regarding feminist politics. In June 2006, I attended the American Association of University Women's 2006 National Conference for Women Student Leaders where I took part in leadership training and discussed the issue of sexual harassment with other women from around the country. In April 2006, I had the opportunity to present my research on the Austrian sex workers at the Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association's annual conference which I researched while on the Pacific travel course in Austria in summer of 2005.

My passions and hobbies include cooking, enjoying a steamy triple soy latte in a coffee shop with some intriguing reading (okay, let's be honest, my texts for class), spending quality time with Oscar, my cat, and traveling. I also enjoy almost any hobby popular among the retirement crowd- knitting, bingo, and the like, however lately I have been devoting most of my time to an illicit affair with my two senior theses.

I am currently working on finishing my BA in Sociology and minor in Feminist Studies. After graduation, I plan on attending graduate school and starting my MA in Women's Studies.

CENTER ADVICE

Hi, I'm new to both Pacific University, and the area. I am wondering how I can meet up with other local LGBT people and organizations. I've heard we have a local Rainbow Coalition chapter, and a Forest Grove PFLAG group, but I don't know when they get together. Mostly I'm looking for a chance to meet like-minded people. But where do I find them???

- *Lonely Lesbian*

Hi, Lonely Lesbian! I have news for you: finding other LGBT people is easy to do at Pacific! The Rainbow Coalition has weekly meetings at 12:15 – 1:00 pm every Friday at the Milky Way, which is also where Pacific's Outback program is located (it's next to Maggie's Buns, across the street from Marsh Hall). The Forest Grove PFLAG group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, at the United Church of Christ, also located across from both Marsh, and Maggie's Buns. Their next meeting is Tuesday, October 17th. We hope you'll be there!

CWGE STAFF 2006

- **Martha Rampton**, Director
- **Cecelia Warner**, Assistant Director
- **Lesley Bart**, Student Director
- **Michelle Conley**, Project Coordinator of Psychological Services
- **Devin Cusack**, Project Coordinator
- **Celeste Goulding**, Project Coordinator
- **Austyn McPherson**, Project Coordinator
- **Erin Murray**, Project Coordinator
- **Callie Vanderwiele**, Project Coordinator
- **Mel Yeates**, Project Coordinator
- **Jenifer Jennings**, Communications Coordinator
- **Reid Vandewiele**, Communications Coordinator