

After the **F** Word...

# The **G** Words



The G Words is for **Gender Justice**, gaining purposeful knowledge to effect social change towards an inclusive and equitable campus community.

Margaret Sloss Women's Center Newsletter • Volume 3 • Issue 3 • February 2009

## Thank you to our Spring 2009 Volunteers!



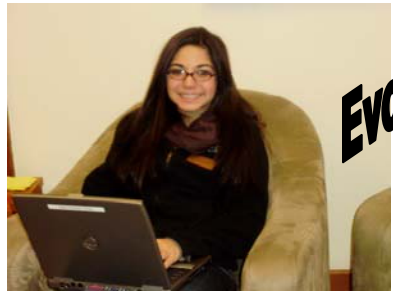
**Pilar**



**Anasia**



**Ashley**



**Evonna**



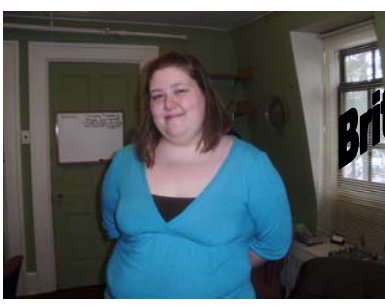
**Hannah**



**Jessica**



**Jess**



**Brittany**



**Yvonne**

*The G Words is a monthly electronic newsletter produced by the Margaret Sloss Women's Center to provide the Iowa State campus with the latest information on Women's Resources and activities. If you would like to contribute to The G Words, please contact [womenctr@iastate.edu](mailto:womenctr@iastate.edu)*



**Aly**



**Birutawit**

## Graduate Women's Network (GWN)

The Graduate Women's Network (GWN) creates a place for female graduate students to come together for support, professional skill building, and more. Graduate students from all disciplines are welcome!

Please join us at the Sloss House for our meetings throughout the semester. The meetings will be every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday from 11 am – 12 pm in the Sloss House.

Friday, February 27

Friday, March 27

Friday, April 24

Following our meetings, feel free to take part in Knit-wits, where you can build connections with other people through knitting and other crafts.

There will also be social meetings throughout the semester that will be scheduled and posted on the Women's Center calendar at <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc/calendar/>.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the GWN listserv, contact Som at [smongtin@gmail.com](mailto:smongtin@gmail.com)

## The Vagina Monologues

Since V-Day launched its very first event in 1998, the movement has encountered incredible women working to end violence against women and girls in society. These women have often experienced violence personally or witnessed it within their communities and dedicated themselves toward ending such violence through effective, grassroots means. They have been the very heart of V-Day since it was conceived as a worldwide movement to empower and enable local activists, raise awareness, and funds locally through the international V-Day benefit productions of *The Vagina Monologues*.

In every community there are humble activists working every day to undo suffering. They sit by hospital beds, pass new laws, chant taboo words, write proposals, beg for money, demonstrate and hold vigils in the streets. Every woman has a warrior inside waiting to be born. In order to guarantee a world without violence, in a time of perceived danger and escalating madness, we urge you to come out and join us.

The Vagina Warriors is hosting February productions of *The Vagina Monologues*, February 18, 19, and 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Durham Great Hall, Iowa State University Memorial Union. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. General Admission tickets are available for \$10.00 in the Maintenance Shop, Ticket Box Office 11 am to 5 pm Monday –Friday and up through show time of each performance.

Questions? Call 515/294-8349 or  
<http://www.m-shop.com/tickets.html>

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) will be taking place in April 2009 at Iowa State University. SAAM will raise awareness about sexual violence and educate the community and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. This is an opportunity to highlight the efforts of individuals and agencies providing rape crisis intervention and prevention services while offering support to sexual assault survivors, victims and their families. Events planned for SAAM include:

### These Hands Don't Hurt—Date to be announced

A visual support of non-violence displayed by imprinting your hand on a large canvas, and signing a pledge of non-violence. Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Lambda.

### The Clothesline Project

**Tuesday, April 14, 10am – 2pm, Sloss House West Lawn**  
The Clothesline Project is a visual display of t-shirts that have been designed by survivors of violence and families/friends of survivors that address the issue of violence against women. The project focuses on providing healing for survivors, educating the public about the issues of sexual violence, and encouraging individual action to prevent violence. Participants will have the opportunity to create a t-shirt of their own on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13, 10am—2pm, Sloss House; and also on the day of the event.

### Sign-making for Take Back the Night Monday, April 20 and Tuesday, April 21 in the Workspace, Memorial Union

Individuals may create signs/banners to symbolize Take Back the Night including: "Join together/free our lives/we will not be victimized" or "Survivors unite/take back the night."

### Take Back the Night Rally and March Thursday, April 23 at 6pm

Take Back the Night is an internationally recognized event with rich history, occurring worldwide since the 1970's. The annual Take Back the Night Rally and March at Iowa State University is organized with the purpose of unifying women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families. You are invited to join us at the rally and march to take a stand against violence and make the night safe for everyone.

### Take Back the Night Celebration Thursday, April 23 following the march

To celebrate taking back the night we are hosting an open mic event for the survivors, families, friends, and community members to share their experiences.

There are many more activities still being planned! For more information on events or to help plan, volunteer, or sponsor events for SAAM, contact Som at [SMongtin@gmail.com](mailto:SMongtin@gmail.com).

## Woman in Herstory by Val Erwin



Abigail Smith was born in 1744 at Weymouth, Massachusetts to a Congregationalist minister. She was not formally educated but read a lot. John Adams was supposedly attracted to Abigail because she was both intelligent and beautiful. She married John Adams, then a Massachusetts lawyer, in 1764. John Adams was an early revolutionary, co-writer of the Declaration of Independence, first Vice-President, and second President of the United States of America. He was away from home a lot leaving Abigail to run their family business and raise their family. The result of their distance left a great number of letters describing colonial life and the interactions between a husband and wife.

They explain the life of women during the revolutionary war.

Abigail was appointed by the Massachusetts Colony General Court in 1775 to question fellow Massachusetts women who were remaining loyal to the British crown and working against the independence movement. She was an avid abolitionist and advocate for married women's rights and the education of women. Her writing is one of the earliest known writing for women's rights. She was often seen as having too much influence on her husband and was called "Mrs. President" by the press for her strong opinions. Her letters became the first written document about a first lady in 1848. There is a memorial to Abigail Adams in a statue where she watched the battle of bunker hill in dedication to her commitment to her country.

For More Information go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/aa2.html>

<http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=2>

*"..remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."*

*~Abigail Adams*

## Volunteering

Have you always loved the Margaret Sloss Women's Center? Have you ever wondered if there was a way you could give back to this amazing center? Consider volunteering your time at the Women's Center! There are lots of opportunities available to you and we are also open to considering areas that you are interested in. We can keep you busy by:

- Being a house greeter in the Sloss House
- Helping out with the events coordinated by the Women's Center.

For more information on volunteering, please contact Val Erwin at [verwin@iastate.edu](mailto:verwin@iastate.edu) or (515) 294-4154.

*"I don't know  
What your destiny will be,  
But one thing I know:  
The only ones among you  
Who will be happy  
Sought and found how to serve."  
Albert Schweitzer*

## Scholarship Recipients Named

We would like to congratulate the recipients of the four scholarships administered by the Margaret Sloss Women's Center and invite you to congratulate them at the Third Annual Gender Equity Awards & Scholarship Reception Thursday, February 19, 2009. The reception will be from 5:30—6:30 PM and light refreshments will be served.

### Adult Student Scholarship

- Megan Seefeld (Apparel Merchanding, Design, and Production, 2012)

### Division of Student Affairs Adult Student Scholarship

- Bryan Anderson (Animal Ecology, 2010)

### Lee Hadley Scholarship

- Gina Hopson (English, 2010)

### Rosenthal Scholarship

- Stephanie Clark (Psychology, 2011)



## MSWC Needs Assessment: A Sneak Peek

The Margaret Sloss Women's Center distributed two Needs Assessment Surveys last December (employees and students). We have started data analysis and are ready to share the demographics of the assessment participants. Once the analysis is complete, a full report will be available on the Margaret Sloss Women's Center webpage. The preliminary results follow:

### Employee Needs Assessment Survey

Total Responses	712 (13.43%)
<b>Gender Identity</b>	689 responded
Female	470 (68.2%)
Male	211 (30.6%)
Prefer not to indicate	7 (1.0%)
Other categories	5 (1.0%)
<b>Sexual Identity</b>	683 responded
Heterosexual (exclusively, mostly, somewhat)	645 (94.4%)
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (exclusively, mostly, somewhat)	24 (3.5%)
Prefer to not indicate	14 (2.1%)
Other	8 (1.2%)
<b>Ethnic/Racial Identity</b>	668 responded
African American	9 (1/3%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3 (0.4%)
Asian/Pacific Islander	22 (3.3%)
Hispanic	9 (1/3%)
White	621 (93%)
Biracial/Multiracial	8 (1.2%)
Other	29 (4.3%)
<b>Employee Classification</b>	684 responded
Faculty	153 (22.4%)
Distinguished Professor	1 (0.1%)
University Professor	5 (0.7%)
Professor	33 (4.8%)
Associate Professor	31 (4.5%)
Assistant Professor	23 (3.4%)
Lecturer	13 (1.9%)
Merit	104 (15.2%)
P&S	407 (59.5%)
Graduate	13 (1.9%)
Part-time	3 (0.4%)
Full-time	117 (17.1%)

### Student Needs Assessment Survey

Total Responses	384 (3.90%)
<b>Gender Identity</b>	366 responded
Female	232 (63.4%)
Male	130 (35.5%)
Genderqueer	1 (0.3%)
Transgender (M to F)	2 (0.5%)
Transgender (F to M)	1 (0.3%)
Prefer not to indicate	5 (1.4%)
Other	4 (1.0%)
<b>Sexual Identity</b>	365 responded
Heterosexual (exclusively, mostly, somewhat)	334 (91.5%)
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (exclusively, mostly, somewhat)	26 (7.1%)
Prefer to not indicate	5 (1.4%)
Other	5 (1.4%)
<b>Ethnic/Racial Identity</b>	357 responded
African American	9 (2.5%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1 (0.3%)
Asian/Pacific Islander	17 (4.8%)
Hispanic	13 (3.6%)
White	304 (85.2%)
Biracial/Multiracial	13 (3.6%)
Other	22 (6.2%)
<b>Age</b>	357 responded
<b>Academic Rank</b>	369 responded
First Year	65 (17.6%)
Sophomore	50 (13.6%)
Junior	51 (13.8%)
Senior	96 (26%)
Master	54 (14.6%)
Doctoral	42 (11.4%)
Professional	6 (1.6%)
Other	5 (1.4%)
<b>Classification</b>	368 responded
Iowa Resident	261 (70.9%)
U.S., Non-Iowa Resident	87 (23.6%)
Transfer	24 (6.5%)
Non-Traditional	5 (1.4%)
International	21 (5.7%)

**MSWC Advisory Board  
2008-2009**

**Susan Carlson**  
Ex-Officio

**Benjamin Day**  
Undergraduate Student

**Kim Everett**  
P&S Staff

**Ashley Hand**  
ACCESS

**David Harris**  
Athletic Department

**Mary Harris**  
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**Rita Knight**  
Merit Staff

**Stephanie Madon**  
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**J. Adin Mann**  
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**Brionni McGriff**  
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**Megan Murphy**  
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Community Member

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**Penny Rice**  
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Merit Staff

**Dione Somerville**  
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**Lois Smidt**  
Community Member

**Alissa Stoehr**  
Graduate Student

**Molly Tracy**  
GSB Representative

**Howard Tyler**  
Faculty

**Meet Our New Practicum Student!!**



Amy Moreno-Kieffer is a first year Master's student in the Education Leadership and Policy Studies program. She graduated from Iowa State in 2004 with a B.S. in Animal Science, and again in 2007 with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology. Currently, her assistantship is at the Student Answer Center in Beardshear Hall. Amy is doing a practicum with MSWC, and is looking forward to the many opportunities to promote and support gender equality.

**Have a Question? We Have an Answer!**

The MSWC has a new addition to its homepage! An Instant Messaging window through meebo.com is now available as a new way of contacting the staff. We invite you to ask questions about upcoming events at the MSWC, resources that are available, or to learn more about various experiences at Iowa State. The chats are completely anonymous, and are an easy way to communicate with the MSWC staff. When you visit our homepage you'll see a dialogue box titled "MSWC". If a staff member is online, simply click in the chat window and ask away! We are excited about this new opportunity, and look forward to chatting with you soon!

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc/>



Smile Sightings are those moments during your day when you see something, hear something, or perhaps even do something that makes you smile. It is helpful and important to our spirits to pay attention to these moments...they happen all the time if we pay attention!

**smile sightings**

Enjoy this smile sighting from Penny Rice below! If you have one to share, email [womenctr@iastate.edu](mailto:womenctr@iastate.edu)

Som and I were in the Sloss house one very cold and snowy afternoon. Around 3:30 pm I heard screaming coming from central campus, right next to the Campanile. I looked out my office window and saw about 25 students enjoying a snow ball fight! What made this even more of a smile sighting was the little truck that removes snow from the sidewalks was in front of the group of students, somewhat blocking their way on the sidewalk. I think the snow removal truck delayed the students from walking and therefore, caused them to pick up snow and create this explosion of snow on other students AND on the sidewalk (that had just been cleaned off). Som and I smiled!

# EVENTS

# Margaret Sloss Women's Center

# FEBRUARY

**Thursday, February 5**

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.....SATF — Room 3534, MU

**Friday, February 6**

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.....Knit-wits! — Sloss House

**Monday, February 9**

9:00 p.m.....Full Moon Party — Sloss House

**Friday, February 13**

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.....Knit-wits! — Sloss House

**Friday, February 13**

3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.....MSWC Advisory Board — Sloss House

**Tuesday, February 17**

11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.....Faculty Women's Network (FWN) — Cardinal Room, MU

**Wednesday, February 18-Friday, February 20**

7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.).....Vagina Monologues — Durham Great Hall, MU

**Thursday, February 19**

5:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.....Gender Equity Awards & Scholarship Reception — Campanile Room, MU

**Friday, February 20**

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.....Knit-wits! — Sloss House

**Friday, February 27**

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.....Graduate Women's Network (GWN) — Sloss House

**Friday, February 27**

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.....Knit-wits! — Sloss House



Please join us for the Iowa State University  
Third Annual Margaret Sloss Women's Center  
Gender Equity Awards & Scholarship Reception

We are honored to congratulate **Dr. Kathy Hickok**, the winner of the 2008 Margaret Sloss Gender Equity Award, for demonstrating an undeniable commitment to working toward gender equity. This award is a way of acknowledging the contributions made by local women and men to foster an atmosphere of equity. In addition to honoring the Gender Equity Award recipient, we will also acknowledge and congratulate the four Margaret Sloss Women's Center 2009-2010 scholarship recipients.

Thursday, February 19, 2009  
5:30pm—6:30pm (light refreshments)  
Campanile Room, Iowa State Memorial Union