

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 4 • April 2009

Meet the newest addition to the MSWC Staff—Chris Fowler!



We are happy to welcome Chris Fowler to the Margaret Sloss Women's Center as the new Assistant Director! Chris first joined Iowa State University in 1996 and has worked in the Department of Residence and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. Please join us for a welcome reception Tuesday, April 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Sloss House. I had the opportunity to ask Chris a few questions to help you get to know our newest addition to the MSWC staff.

Q: Tell me about yourself.

A: I'm from Iowa and have been at ISU since 1996. I'm a proud mom of Maddie, 13, Elizabeth, 9, and the partner of Michelle. We also have a yellow lab, Riley, and a black cat, Neko.

Q: You have been with Iowa State in several positions. Tell me about the different roles you have had at the University.

A: I started in 1996 as a Hall Director for Oak/Elm and then moved to Coordinator of Resident Education Programs for University Family Housing working primarily with programming and supervising Resident Managers. I was then promoted to Manager of Community Services and the name was changed to University/Schilleter Village. I enjoyed working with the diverse population and the families. In 2005 I moved from residence to the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. I worked with a first year learning community and advised a student organization.

Q: What are you passionate about?

A: I'm passionate about encouraging young women to grow, learn, and become independent. Education in general, I'm a first generation college graduate and feel college is so important.

Q: What is your favorite room in the Women's Center and why?

A: My office! It is the same color my grandmother had in her bathroom. It reminds me of her. And I'm excited to have an office and work in the center.

Q: What are you excited about in your new role?

A: I'm excited to be working with Penny Rice, Marissa, Som, and Val.

Random trivia about Chris:

- Chris has undergraduate degrees in Elementary Education and Psychology and has a MSE in Counselor Education.
- Chris took a Master Gardening class last fall.
- She is the Vice Chair for ACCESS Board of Directors
- Chris is a member of the Ames Girls Softball Association
- Her favorite food this time of year is anything on the grill
- Her favorite color is blue
- She likes to play poker, but doesn't play professionally or often. She is just excited that she learned how to play.
- She likes attending musicals. She recently saw Legally Blonde and Hairspray (again) and she's looking forward to Mamma Mia and Wicked later this year.

Welcome Reception
Tuesday, April 7
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Sloss House

Join us to welcome
Chris to the
Women's Center!

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

Take Back the Night by Amy Moreno-Kieffer

We are looking forward once again to organize an evening dedicated to unifying women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children and families through the Take Back the Night (TBTN) rally and march.

Join us on April 23 at 6pm on the upper west terrace of the Memorial Union to march in unity. From the terrace, we will march south on Lynn Avenue from the Memorial Union and go west on Knapp St., north on Welch Ave cross Lincoln way to go through the arches of Friley to Union Drive and back to the MU.

Following the march at 8pm, Take Back the Night: Taking the Stage to Reflect and Express will take place in the M-shop as an opportunity for everyone to share stories, express yourself in a form of performing art, poetry, or just come to hear and support those who are expressing their experience with sexual assault and violence. Food will be provided!

Speakers from the Iowa State community will start off the evening as follows: Penny Rice will MC, Ashley Hand will provide a welcome, Ray Rodriguez will discuss Men's roles in Sexual Assault (survivors, allies, supporters), Suzy Owens will present Sexual Assault as a Community Issue, Shawna, a Monsoon representative and Survivor will talk about her experience, and friends of survivors will also be sharing their experiences.

In preparation for TBTN the following events will also be taking place:

- April 20-22 from 10am-2pm, Take Back the Night will host a booth at the MU where they will sell t-shirts, pins, and other non-food items.
- April 20 from 2-6pm, supplies will be provided at the Workspace in the MU for individuals to make signs for the march/rally. Supplies are free.
- April 21 from 2-10pm, make signs in the Workspace for the march/rally. Supplies are free.

No Longer Controlled by Fear by Som Mongtin

This will be my first Take Back the Night Rally and March. I have always been too afraid to go to one, because I wasn't sure what kinds of emotions would erupt from deep inside of me. After coordinating events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which includes Take Back the Night, I have gained a greater appreciation of how significant it is to participate in a Take Back the Night Rally and March. I now have the courage to own the night and to not be afraid.

Being fearful of going out at night is rooted back to when I was only six years old. After school, my aunt would take me home with her so I could play with other kids my age that lived in her neighborhood. When it was time to take me home, my aunt, her friend and I made a quick stop to the store. It was around 9pm when we were leaving the store and heading to the car. I was waiting for the passenger's side backseat door to unlock so I could make my way into the car. I remember what happened next so vividly; that it surprises me that six year old, who could barely see above the car window, could witness and remember so many details.

I waited for the door to unlock; my fingers curled under the door handle, ready to pull open. I heard distorted noise on the driver's side of the vehicle, and before I had enough time to make out what the noise was, my aunt's friend, who was waiting outside the passenger's side door, let out a broken, high pitched shriek! Along with the shriek, I heard my aunt scream, gasp for air, and cry for help! I lifted myself up and stood on my tip toes in attempt to see

over and through the car window. I caught a quick glimpse of three men in baseball caps, wearing all black clothing, grabbing and pulling my aunt's hair and ripping jewelry off her. They did not seem to care that my aunt was not enjoying what they were doing to her.

Next thing I knew, I got taken by the waist and was carried into the store. The sound of my aunt's cry blurred right past me and I saw her on the ground with three men overpowering her. I was carried into the nearest store where everyone was pressed against the window, screaming and watching in horror while my aunt was being attacked, alone, in the dark. The sight of my helpless, bleeding, bruised, crying aunt brought to my attention the dangers of what can happen at night.

After that incident, I always made sure I took more precautions when going out at night. Even to this day, being 22 years old, going out at night still worries me. I have learned how to make myself **feel** safe at night by walking with my keys sticking out between my fingers, dialing 9-1-1 on my cell phone with my thumb resting on the "call" button, and constantly scanning my surrounding for any signs of danger.

I used to show fear when going out at night. On April 23, I will make a statement for others to know that I will not be controlled by my fear of the night. It is time for me to take back the night, which rightfully belongs to me. Join me and others who are survivors and friends of survivors, of violence and sexual assault as we march in the Take Back the Night Rally and March on April 23 at 6pm on the

Woman in Herstory by Val Erwin

Michelle Robinson (Obama) was born January 17, 1964 in the south side of Chicago. She got her Bachelors degree at Princeton University and her Law degree at Harvard University. She worked at Sidley Austin, a law firm in Chicago, and then became the Associate Dean of Students at the University of Chicago. She then began working for the University of Chicago Hospitals, first as executive director for community affairs, and beginning May, 2005, as Vice President for Community and External Affairs. Michelle started to limit her time at the hospital and eventually took a leave of absence to help her husband campaign. She is only the third first lady to have a graduate or professional degree and the first African American first lady.

For more information look at these websites:

www.newsweek.com/id/112849

www.chicagotribune.com/topic/politics/michele-obama0PECLB05380.topic



"We have lost the understanding that in a democracy, we have a mutual obligation to one another — that we cannot measure the greatness of our society by the strongest and richest of us, but we have to measure our greatness by the least of these." - Michelle Obama

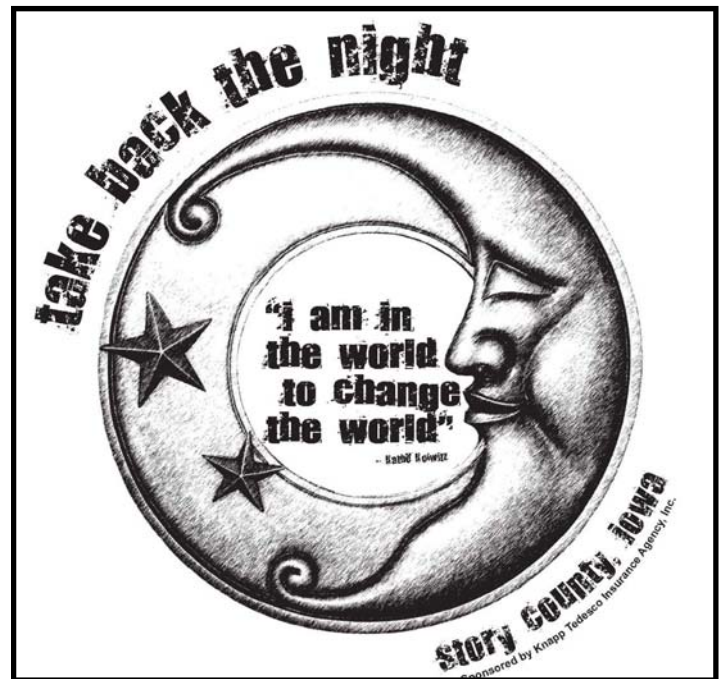
V-Day Raised \$3015 for ACCESS!

The Vagina Warriors hosted the V-Day February production of *The Vagina Monologues*, February 18, 19, & 20, 2009. The event raised a total of \$3015.00 for ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support). Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to the event.

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues*. In 2008, over 4000 V-Day benefit events took place produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world, in 120 countries from Europe to Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and all of North America.

In 2001, V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities" and in 2006 one of Marie Claire Magazine's Top Ten Charities. In ten years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$60 million. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

The *Vagina Monologues* will be performed next year on February 18 & 19. Planning for next year's event will begin soon. Contact womenctr@iastate.edu if you are interested in being involved with next year's production, on stage or behind the scene.



It's Time!

The Margaret Sloss Women's Center is ready to compile the first issue of its Zine! We will be putting together the Zine from the submissions collected throughout the year. This is your opportunity to contribute to the style and layout of the Zine. The theme for this issue is *Your Interpretation of the Lives and Experiences of Women*. We will be putting together the Zine on Friday, April 10, 5-8pm in the Sloss House.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

The Zine will be available online when it is complete at:

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

If you have any questions, contact Marissa at

mklousie@iastate.edu or 515/294-4154.



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 **Marissa Klousie** below!

If you have one to share,
Email womenctr@iastate.edu.

I was on facebook a couple of weeks ago, and pictured under the *People You May Know* tab was a picture of a friend who died just under a year ago. I was completely taken aback. When I went to his profile, I saw that people have continued to write to him. It was very powerful to see the ways in which people have kept him in their lives. About a week after this happened, I was in New Hampshire interviewing for a job. When I entered the apartment of my host, I saw the program from my friend's funeral on a bulletin board. Once again, I was taken aback. I was over 1000 miles from home, and found myself confronted a second time with my friend's death. Some of you might be wondering how this is a smile sighting. I might have missed the moment where this made me smile if I hadn't been paying attention, but it did. Both of these incidents lifted my heart in a way. They helped me to remember a friend, to take stock on the last year, and to get to a place where I can think about my friend and smile instead of cry.

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), which 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. Events include:

Self-defense Workshop—March 29, 7pm, Forker E0202

Kick-off Sexual Assault Awareness Month by learning how to defend yourself with the guidance of Master Yong Chin Pak. Master Pak instructs students in the martial arts: Hapkido, Judo and Tae Kwon Do at Iowa State University, guiding the Tae Kwon Do Club to multiple national collegiate championships. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing (sweat pants and a comfortable shirt), and with an attitude to work and learn! Presented by the Multicultural Greek Council.

Mend the Wounded Heart Through Art—Mach 30- April 3, 9am-4pm, Sloss House

Survivors and supporters of survivors are invited to design hearts to demonstrate the emotional affects of sexual assault and to spread awareness.

SART Flag Display—April 1, 10am-2pm, in front of Parks Library

A visual display on campus representing the people that the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) has helped. Eta Sigma Gamma will also be distributing whistles and information on sexual assault.

Erin Weed's "Girls Fight Back-Live from Denver" video showing—April 7, 8pm, Oak/Elm Rec Room & April 9, 8:30pm, Eaton 1132 & April 23, 3pm, 129 Gerdin

Learn to live a safe and empowered life with Girls Fight Back founder Erin Weed. This DVD was shot live at Comcast Studios in Denver, Colorado in summer 2008. Using cutting edge safety strategies, straight talk and a healthy dose of humor, this live seminar will teach you the real facts about violence. You will also learn how to predict assaults, that any woman (regardless of size) can be her own best protector, how to trust intuition, crucial self-defense techniques that every woman should know and how to use improvised weapons.

Protect Yourself!—April 8, 6:30pm, South Ballroom, MU

As a part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month Ray Rodriguez, from the Thielen Student Health Center, will provide nformation and prevention tips. Yong Chin Pak, an instructor for the martial arts at Iowa State, will demonstrate a series of self-defense moves. Sponsored by: Eta Sigma Gamma, Lectures on campus and Thielen Health center

Design t-shirts for The Clothesline Project—April 10, April 13, & April 14, 10am-2pm, Sloss House

Design t-shirts, that will be displayed in the Clothesline Project, that address the issue of violence to educate the public about the issue of violence.

The Clothesline Project—April 14, 10am – 2pm, West Lawn of the Sloss House

A visual display of t-shirts addressing the issue of violence against women. T-shirts have been designed by survivors of violence and families/friends of victims of violence. The project focuses on providing healing for survivors of violence, educating the public about issues of violence, and encouraging individual action to prevent violence.

These Hands Don't Hurt—April 14, 10am-2pm, West Lawn of the Sloss House & April 18, 9am-5pm, VEISHEA Village

Make your mark! Participate in a display of a banner with hand imprints to declare that these hands will never be used to hurt another person.

Sign making for Take Back the Night—April 20, 2-6pm & April 20, 2-10pm, Workspace at the MU

There will be an opportunity for the community to make signs which will be carried by marchers during Take Back the Night rally and march.

Take Back the Night Rally and March—April 23,6pm, Upper Terrace, MU

Spreading awareness of violence against women, children, and families by marching around campus to let others know that

Take Back the Night: Taking the Stage to Reflect and Express—April 23 following the March, Maintenance Shop, MU

Will take place after the rally and march for marchers to relax and an open mic will give survivors, families, friends, and community members to share their experiences.

For more information on volunteering, or getting involved, contact Som at SMongtin@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Margaret Sloss Women's Center

APRIL

April — Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) — See event calendar on page 5 for descriptions of events.

Monday, March 30—Friday, April 3

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.....(SAAM) Mend the Wounded Heart Through Art — Sloss House

Wednesday, April 1

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.....(SAAM) SART Flag Display — In front of Parks Library

Thursday, April 2

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

Friday, April 3

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

Tuesday, April 7

8:00 p.m.....(SAAM) “Girls Fight Back-Live from Denver” — Oak/Elm Hall Rec Room

Wednesday, April 8

6:30 p.m.....(SAAM) Protect Yourself — South Ballroom, MU

Thursday, April 9

9:00 p.m. — 12:00 a.m.....Full Moon Party — Sloss House

8:30 p.m.....(SAAM) “Girls Fight Back-Live from Denver” — 1132 Eaton Hall

Friday, April 10

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.....(SAAM) T-shirt Designing for The Clothesline Project — Sloss House

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

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

5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.....Zine Compliation — Sloss House

Monday, April 13 — Sunday, April 19 — VEISHEA

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.....(SAAM) T-shirt Designing for The Clothesline Project — Sloss House

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.....(SAAM) The Clothesline Project — West Lawn of the Sloss House

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.....(SAAM) These Hands Don't Hurt — West Lawn of the Sloss House

Wednesday, April 15

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

Friday, April 17

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

Saturday, April 18

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.....(SAAM) These Hands Don't Hurt — VEISHEA Village

Monday, April 20

2:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.....(SAAM) Take Back the Night Sign Making — Workspace, MU

Tuesday, April 21

2:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.....(SAAM) Take Back the Night Sign Making — Workspace, MU

Thursday, April 23

3:00 p.m.....(SAAM) “Girls Fight Back-Live from Denver” — 129 Gerdin

6:00 p.m.....(SAAM) Take Back the Night Rally and March — West Terrace, MU

8:00 p.m.....(SAAM) Take Back the Night: Taking the Stage to Reflect and Express — Maintenance Shop, MU

Friday, April 24

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

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