

feminista

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SPRING 2008

Stand Up, Speak Out

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

BY TODD HENNEMAN

Designated national Sexual Assault Awareness Month since 2001, April this year brings more opportunities than ever to learn about preventing sexual violence and supporting survivors.

The Women's Student Assembly annually organizes Take Back the Week, built around Take Back the Night, a rally and march against sexual violence that will be held Wednesday, April 2. For the first time, the USC community also will participate in Denim Day, April 23.

The roots of contemporary Take Back extend to 1976, when women lit candles and filled the streets of Bel-

gium to denounce violence against women.

The mantra came to the United States in 1978 as part of an anti-pornography conference. By 1980, Take Back the Night rallies comparable to those held annually nowadays were organized in several major cities.

As part of Take Back the Week, students affected by sexual violence have decorated t-shirts that will be hung near Alumni Park in what's known as The Clothesline Project.

Denim Day grew from outrage when Italy's highest appeals court in 1999 overturned the rape conviction of a 45-year-old man because the 18-year-old survivor had

been wearing jeans when he assaulted her.

"It is common knowledge that it is nearly impossible to even partially remove jeans from a person without their cooperation, since this operation is already very difficult for the wearer," five judges, all male, wrote.

After the decision, female members of Italy's Parliament wore jeans to work in a sign of protest. In April 1999, the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women, now known as Peace Over Violence, organized the first Denim Day LA.

This year will be the first time that USC participates in Denim Day. Organized by the USC Center for Women & Men in partnership with Peace Over Violence, USC Denim Day offers an opportunity to continue the conversation about sexual assault begun earlier in the month during Take Back the Week.

For Take Back the Week's schedule, please see Page 4.



Dialogue with Danielle

The Director's Column
By DANIELLE LANÇON

Welcome to the spring newsletter of the USC Center for Women & Men. I'm Danielle Lançon, the new director of the USC CWM.

I'm excited to be here at USC and part of the dynamic Student Affairs team. I'm a licensed clinical social worker with a strong interest in gender issues. I look forward to combining my clinical background with advocacy, education and programming related to issues of gender and violence.

This is an exciting time on campus and we have several upcoming events planned, including the Take Back the Night campaign to educate USC's community about sexual assault and violence. In addition to Take Back the Night, we have our annual Diversity Luncheon on Wednesday, April 16, and our USC Denim Day event. If you're interested in helping with USC Denim Day, please contact me.

We also have the remarkable Men CARE

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RSVP for Center for Women & Men's Annual Diversity Luncheon



The Center for Women & Men's Diversity Luncheon provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to discuss the intersections of gender and other dimensions of diversity.

USC benefits from the diversity of its campus community, including having one of the largest international student populations of any university in the United States. This event serves a time not only to benefit from the experiences of others but also to share your experience.

The 3rd annual luncheon will be held 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Garden Court at Upstairs Commons. An RSVP is required by April 14 to cwm@usc.edu. This event is open to all students, staff and faculty.

Past speakers have included Shafiqah Ahmadi, JD; Pat Alford-Keating, Ph.D.; Janelle Wong, Ph.D.; Judith Fossett, Ph.D.; Mary Andres, Psy.D.; Laura Pulido, Ph.D.; and Lori White, Ph.D.

For more information, please call Ebonish Lamar at 213-740-4900.

3 Questions with ... Ginger Clark, Ph.D.



into professionals.

2. What differentiates the USC Marriage and Family Therapy program from others?

Ginger Clark is assistant professor of clinical education and program lead of the USC Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

1. What is your favorite class to teach?

One of the classes I really enjoy teaching is Group Counseling. This is an experiential course where students learn about the theory and practice of group psychotherapy, while participating in an actual therapy group composed of the students in the class. Students alternately serve as "clients" in the group, and "therapists" leading the group. There are unique dynamics that arise in a situation like this that force students to think about their boundaries and willingness to take emotional risks in front of their colleagues. In other words, they develop a keen understanding of what it is like to be in the vulnerable position of "the client." I enjoy helping students integrate their knowledge of basic and advanced counseling skills, counseling theory, and apply these principals to the multifaceted work of helping a group, as a whole, make progress in therapy. This is one of those pivotal classes that change students

First, we have the luxury of being very selective. We receive many outstanding applications from highly qualified students from across the country, and internationally. The high caliber of students from diverse backgrounds enhances the learning environment, and contributes to the academic and clinical rigor of the program. Second, because we are a professional program, Dean Gallagher is committed to hiring clinical faculty to administer and teach in the program. This means we have faculty who are also expert practitioners in the field. This allows us to use our practice to inform our teaching, giving students real world examples of the concepts they are learning. Finally, our students get a lot of attention. Our class sizes are relatively small and the cohort moves through the program together. This fosters a supportive environment that allows students to help each other, and develop life-long relationships that will follow them throughout their careers (true to the ideals of the Trojan Family). Each student is assigned an advisor, and it is not unusual for us to have a student in our office a few times a semester for ad-

visement on: their program, their career, their interest in doctoral programs, and even on personal issues that may be affecting their program.

3. If you had to pick a different career, what would it be and why?

This is an interesting question for me. I tell my Career Counseling class that we each have a set of skills, values, and a personality that could be utilized with great success in a number of different careers. My secret alternative career dreams tend to be on the darker side. One area of great interest to me is the role that the mind plays in deviant behavior. I am very interested in the study of neurology and brain development as they apply to sociopaths (e.g., serial killers). I'd like to know if, when, and how the actual structure of their brains develop differently (e.g., Are there early traumas or events that actually change the structure of the brain, or are there genetic components to sociopathy?) I would like to study and consult on the process of becoming sociopathic, and would like to determine if it is preventable, or is a reversible process with psychotherapeutic interventions.

For more information on the MFT program, please visit http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/academic/masters/academic_masters_mft.htm.

Expressions of USC students

Woman

BY LORENA MADRIGAL

Because
those damn
curves
plunge your mind
in directions
it has never known existed.

Because
the sunlight off her lips
and
the sway of her hips
make you cringe
with anticipation.

Because
your ballooning ego
as she walks
right on by
Pops

*Madrigal is a freshman
majoring in creative writing.*

Director's Column, Continued from Page 1.

(Men Creating Attitudes for Rape-free Environments) program. Men CARE involves a peer education program about sexual assault and prevention. If you are interested in membership information, or would like to nominate someone for membership consideration, please visit <http://www.usc.edu/mencare> to download the forms.

I'm hopeful to increase the outreach and visibility of CWM in the upcoming year. I look forward to continuing to meet the needs and interests of students with a range of programming, events and counseling services. I want to encourage students to contact me or stop by the office in STU 202C to simply say hello or get more information about our services.

— Danielle Lancon, LCSW
lancon@usc.edu

Stuck in Performance

BY JESSICA MOLLO

The same old story
told a thousand times
I'm your little actress
and I double as your mime
Unable to speak
Foolish and weak
Abstract emotions
Silly notions
of other worlds, other lives
Freedom out of reach
Wish I could breach
this invisible prison.

*Mollo is a third-year student
majoring in writing for
screen and television.*

Untitled

BY JESSICA MOLLO

Repressed.
Undressed.
What a sweaty mess.
Abuse.
Profuse.
I'm about to lose.
Heart-ache.
Forsake.
Words that make me
break.
Contain.
Profane.
Driving in the fast lane.
Forget.
Regret.
Now there's a huge debt.

Resources for parents at USC

BY MARIKO DAWSON ZARE

Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Senate's
Committee for Gender Equity

For information about any of the following, please e-mail gpsscge@gmail.com or visit http://www.usc.edu/org/gpss/committees_women_conc.html.

GPSS Committee for Gender Equity: The Committee for Gender Equity (formerly the Women's Concerns Committee) is committed to addressing the concerns of women and men in the graduate and professional schools. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 27.

Graduate Student Parent Network: The USC Graduate Student Parent Network is an electronic forum for graduate-student parents to discuss their concerns, connect with other parents and hear about events such as Parents Brunch.

USC Childcare Center:

The USC Childcare Center offers subsidized rates for students who need childcare. Because there tends to be a long waiting list, contact the Childcare Center as soon as possible. The Childcare Center also provides information to help find other childcare options.

Lactation Room: In fall 2007, USC opened its first lactation room, located in the Lyon Center. For details, please visit the Center for Women & Men's Website at www.usc.edu/cwm.

CGE Panel Series: The Committee for Gender Equity's final panel of the year, scheduled for the first week of April, will look at how academic professionals also handle the challenges of caring for their families.



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For after hours emergencies, follow the prompts.

E-mail: cwm@usc.edu

<http://www.usc.edu/cwm>

feminista

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Feminista welcomes submissions from any member
of the USC community.

Take Back the Week 2008 Schedule

For the most up-to-date information, please visit <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~jnorozco/TBTN>

MONDAY, March 31

SEX 101:

SEXUAL HEALTH FAIR

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

@ Tommy Trojan

Learn the ABCs of safe, fun, consensual sex at the FMLA Sexual Health Fair. There will be games, free giveaways, **FREE TROPICS YOGURT**, tabling by the USC Center for Women & Men, Health Promotion & Prevention Services, SWE and Planned Parenthood and performances by Reverse Osmosis and SoCal Vocals.

MEN CARE'S VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

@ Upper Commons Garden Court

Jody Armour, professor of law, and John Hill, chief of staff to Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke, will speak, followed by **FREE APPETIZERS** and a discussion about fostering healthy relationships. This event is open to all USC **MEN**. More information: mencare@usc.edu.

THE LAW OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

@ GOULD LAW SCHOOL ROOM 3

A panel discussion featuring USC law professors, advocates, and policy-makers about the legal system and how it works in relation to the investigation and prosecution of rape

cases in the United States. This event is open only to **GRADUATE** students.

TUESDAY, April 1

DAY OF ACTION

SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT
VIOLENCE ABROAD FAIR

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. @ Tommy Trojan

Enjoy art displays by local students and campus organizations, **FREE TOGO'S**, and learn about violence against women around the globe and sign a petition for the U.S. Congress to pass the International Violence Against Women Act that will increase funding and services to organizations around the globe for women's rights.

FILM SCREENING:

'SEARCHING FOR ANGELA SHELTON'

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR ANGELA SHELTON

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. @ SGM 101

Come enjoy some **FREE VIZTANGO** and view this amazing documentary of self-discovery and a survey of women in the United States. On Angela Shelton's journey she discovered that nearly 40% of the women she met had been molested, abused, or raped. She will be answering your questions and her life, film, and book, *Finding Angela Shelton*, which will be available for purchase.

WEDNESDAY, April 2

SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY TEACH-IN

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

@ GOULD LAW SCHOOL OF LAW ROOM 1

Listen to a panel discussion about USC's sexual assault policy. Learn your rights as students, statistics about sexual assault and ways to join the fight to end sexual violence.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

5:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.

5:30 p.m.: free t-shirts distributed. Performances by Women's Theater Organization, campus and community organizations, and USC Men CARE.

8 p.m.: keynote address filmmaker Angela Shelton

9 p.m.: campus march

10 p.m.: speak out

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

GENDER, MEDIA & VIOLENCE

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. @ TSC 205

Enjoy **FREE SUNDAES** and discuss with a panel of experts the images of women and girls in the media, from sexualized girls and brutalized women in TV shows and movies to unbalanced reporting of rape cases, how do media affect perceptions and violence against women?

The USC Center for Women and Men provides free ...

- ◇ 24-hour confidential help for students affected by sexual assault, stalking, harassment or intimate partner violence.
- ◇ Workshops for your sorority, fraternity, student organization or building.
- ◇ Support groups for survivors of gender-related harm.
- ◇ Educational events such as the annual Women's Leadership Retreat and the annual Diversity Luncheon.