

the women's center

...promoting equitable and safe environments on campus for women through advocacy, education, and research.



UC Women's Center
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UC Women's Center

Celebrating 35 years of service to the campus community!

"What I love about working for the Women's Center is that it gives me opportunities to meet so many amazing women on campus and further develop leadership skills I didn't even know I had!"
- Kyanna Perry, Student Worker



"I love the Women's Center because it is the first place I have ever worked that I felt truly supported in my role and have been given the chance to be my authentic self in a work environment. I have learned so much from them that has changed me forever for the better."
Melissa Muchmore, Women's Initiative Network (WIN), Graduate Assistant

"The UCWC supported me as I became comfortable with being me, all of me. The UCWC was critical in my coming out process and helped me to stand strong in all of my identities, helping me to mend my race with my sexuality and be at ease with being an African-American Lesbian."
- Leisan Smith, LGBTQ Center Program Director



University of Cincinnati Women's Center
Steger Student Life Center, Suite 571

*Top: Get Yourself Tested Campaign
Middle: The Vagina Monologues 2012
Bottom: CONNECT Conference 2011*

A look inside...

2 Letter from the Director

3 History of Women at UC

4 –6 UCWC Timeline

7 Reclaim Peer Advocates

7 Spotlight on C-Ring

8 Celebrating Title IX

9-10 Reflections from Past Leaders

11 Social Media at UCWC

11 Contributing to UCWC

11 UCWC Mission & Goals

Achieving the full promise of higher education... requires institutional voices... like the Women's Center. -Barb Rinto

On the occasion of our 35th Anniversary...



Barb Rinto, Director of UC Women's Center

I am so proud to be affiliated with the UC Women's Center. For 35 years we have worked to bring the full promise of education to women students at UC. We were founded during a decade of major changes in U.S. education benefitting women. Colleges that had excluded women students opened their doors and Congress passed Title IX, the landmark federal legislation prohibiting sex discrimination at institutions that received federal funds. Although overt discrimination was now against the law, Women's Centers played an important role in assuring that those laws were translated into university policies and practices.

In the 1970s, women students were still in the minority but as the numbers grew, issues that disproportionately impacted women gained attention and the Women's Center went to work. Sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention efforts were launched and policies were implemented to support individuals who were victimized. Recognition of the multi-dimensional lives of women led to initiatives supporting women of color and student parents. The needs of LGBTQ students were also championed by the Women's Center. Peer education programs extended the reach of the WC by creating awareness about body image and eating disorders. Experiential learning and collaborations with academic units, especially the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, have produced student activists and leaders. The further imperative to diversify UC allowed the WC to take charge of the women's leadership development program and to become a public monitor for the status of UC women faculty and staff.

Today women students are in the majority at UC and across the country and receive the majority of PhD's. Yet, achieving a critical mass of women or statistical parity with men is not enough. Women are still paid less than men, even when they do the same work and hold a degree in the same field. We have made progress toward gender equity and we celebrate that progress. Achieving the full promise of higher education for all students however continues to require institutional voices, reminding us of what is yet to be achieved. The Women's Center will be that voice as long as we are needed. ■ Barb Rinto

UC Women's Center Staff: Barbara Rinto, Director; Amy Howton, Associate Director; Ashley Rouster, Sexual Assault Survivor Advocate; Brandy Turnbow, Program Coordinator for Marketing and Communications; Ann Brown, Administrative Coordinator; Michelle Burstion-Young, Women's Initiatives Network (WIN) Research Assistant; Mercedes Katis, Women in Leadership and Learning (WILL) Graduate Assistant; Kalilah Montgomery and Corrine Patterson, Student Workers for Social Media and Web Communications; Kyanna Perry, Student Worker for Education and Programming

Former staff who contributed to this publication: Lydia Weiss, 35th Anniversary Student Worker; Cortnie Owens, Student Worker for Social Media and Web Communications; Kim Fulbright, Associate Ombuds (previous Program Coordinator in UCWC); Melissa Muchmore, Women's Initiative Network (WIN) Research Assistant, Dylan Colvin, Student Worker for Education and Programming.

Social Media Activism and the Women's Center

One of the goals of the Women's Center is to increase student activism at UC and beyond. Having Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr, among many other social networking sites, has helped the Women's Center to build community at UC, but also in the city of Cincinnati.

The Women's Center took action with last year's "Who Needs Feminism?" Campaign and we had great success in getting people to submit photos with why they need feminism written on pieces of paper. These people were not only UC students, they were also residents of Cincinnati. This, in turn, had people talking about the Women's Center at their jobs, gyms, book clubs, and the like. This simple task yielded powerful conversations about feminism and women's rights—and it all happened

online. Having a pretty simple online activist project can lead to more people coming into the Center, which supports the many goals of the Women's Center.

When I started working in the Women's Center during my internship in early 2011, there was a social media skeleton for me to play around with in hopes of growing the number of people who interact with us online. The social media attention that the Center has gotten over the last few years is great; we're followed by numerous Women's Centers across the country, and we were mentioned recently at the NWSA Conference for being top notch in our networking skills.

This, of course, is all great news for me to hear, because it's

what I do here, but this information isn't just important for me to know - it's important for everyone at UC and in Cincinnati because social media communication isn't going away. The face of activism has changed because of social media; we can all contact each other easily and at a moment's notice we can organize meeting times via Doodle Polls, and we can be more active and reach people nationwide with just the click of the 'share' button on Facebook. I've been told that I've changed peoples' lives and perceptions of beauty with my personal blog, and all of that was from typing out blog posts from my couch. Social media activism doesn't replace any other activist work, but it does help make it a little better. ■

Cortnie Owens, Social Media Student Worker, 2013



Donate to the work of the Women's Center!

We've been working on behalf of women for over 35 years but we haven't been working alone! We could not advance our mission without community support from donors who care about the work just as much as we do.

You can help us continue to offer our current programming and provide us with support to cultivate additional resources dedicated to our goals of increasing personal safety, eliminating institutional barriers, and encouraging leadership development and activism.

We've accomplished many things in our 35 years, but with your support, we can accomplish so much more. Visit the Women's Center website at www.uc.edu/ucwc and click on the *Make A Gift Today* button to explore options for giving!

UC Women's Center Mission Statement: To promote equitable and safe environments on campus for women through advocacy, research and education.

Our Vision: The Women's Center will be integral to the University of Cincinnati's efforts to create a diverse and inclusive learning environment for women students, staff, and faculty.

Our Goals:

Goal 1: Increase and improve safety in interpersonal relationships.

Goal 2: Identify and help eliminate institutional barriers that impede the full participation of women in the university.

Goal 3: Increase student activism in UC and beyond.

Reflections on the Past and Visions for the Future: Insights from the UC Women's Center Directors

It is gratifying to hear that good work done by good people continues and that this work evolves and retains its place on the cutting edge of progressive social change.

-Chris Bobel

Chris Bobel served as the director from 1998 until 2001. She is now a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. During her time at the UCWC, some of the biggest highlights were establishing a full-time position for the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and “creating a warmer, more inviting space where people—all sorts of people— wanted to hang out, creating opportunities to connect, get support, challenge an assumption, feel safe/r.” She said, “I remember returning to the office one day and finding the space filled with students—women and men alike, across the racial spectrum, queer, straight, bi, questioning, all eating and talking and studying and laughing and I thought : YES! This is what a Women's Center should be.”

Although Bobel hopes that some day the necessity for Women's Centers will be obsolete, she said, “It is gratifying to hear that good work done by good people continues and that this work evolves and retains its place on the cutting edge of progressive social change.” While Bobel was directing the efforts of the office, critical changes began taking place—a graduate assistant position was created for LGBTQ programming, services for student parents started being assessed, the Center became established as a resource for women of color “through targeted outreach and culturally literate programming,” and the group White Women Against Racism was founded. If everyone could know one thing about the Center it is that much of the work is invisible, but very important—answering questions of walk-ins, consulting colleagues on how to be more gender-sensitive in their

work, cultivating student leaders in subtle ways, and so on. The UCWC truly operates as a resource and enhances the work that countless others do, even if WOMEN or GENDER is not in their name.”

Nancy Spence directed the Women's Center (then Women's Programs and Services) from 1985 until 1997. During her time at UCWC, she said one of the highlights was, “Offering credit courses and peer-education programs—most cutting-edge at the time—which reached into the community and were seen as models by institutions of higher education around the country, thus impacting not only UC students but thousands beyond UC's walls.” She also said that while she was the director the Center moved to a central location on campus which helped increase the office's visibility and exponentially increased the services they provided to the campus community. During this period they were also in a “position to expand our diverse staff.” Spence said that the 35th anniversary means, “That Mary Ellen Ashley's *pioneering* vision is to be celebrated and built on.” Additionally, Spence hopes that the Center “will flourish as it continues its role of advocacy and education.”

Mary Ellen Ashley was the founder of Women's Programs and Services (WPS) in 1978 and served as the Associate Vice Provost until 1987. She said, “The biggest accomplishment was being able to found WPS, grow its visibility and credibility and see that it has been sustained. I think that I hired the best women to lead it forward when I left because I tried very hard to find women even more committed than I had been.” When asked about the biggest struggles when founding WPS, she said it was a personal struggle. “It was very hard to build coalitions and intervene in some pretty horrid situations on behalf of students while I felt ‘hung out to dry.’ I was often personally and professionally attacked and made to feel pretty unwelcome. There were not many people in positions of authority who supported me in those early years.” However, despite the difficulty, services for women on campus thrived. Ashley built a budget, acquired staff, conducted student surveys and began influencing policies. Ashley said, “I simply cannot believe that the ‘baby’ has survived and thrived for 35 years. Makes me feel very old and yet very proud.” She hopes that everyone will know, “Women's issues of discrimination, sexism and inequity have not gone away in higher education and vigilance is still critical to the future success of women students and employees alike.”

■ Lydia Weiss, 35th Anniversary Student Worker



UC Women through the years...

History plays an important role in the work that we do as feminist scholars, activists, and allies.

Without acknowledging the complicated historical background of the women's movement and celebrating the advancement of gender equality, it would be easy to lose sight of our goals for the future.

Let's take a look at some of the firsts for women at the University of Cincinnati .

STUDENTS...

The University of Cincinnati can trace its origins back to its founding in 1819 although it was officially established in 1870 by the City of Cincinnati.

The first woman to graduate from UC was **Winona Lee Hawthorne** in 1878—100 years before the UC Women's Center was established. Hawthorne was one of eight graduates of UC's first graduating class and was the only woman. Her baccalaureate essay was entitled “Plea for the Classics.”

In 1897 **Alice May Easton** was the first black female on record to graduate from UC. “Known as a ‘math whiz,’ she later taught black youngsters at the Harriet Beecher Stowe School.”

In 1911 **Annette Braun** was the first woman to earn a doctorate from UC. She received her PhD in zoology. Her dissertation was entitled “Observations on the Development of Color in the Pupal Wings of Several Species of Lithocolletis.”

In 1978 the University of Cincinnati enrolled **37,736** students - **17,449** (approximately 46%) of whom were women. In 2012-13 the University of Cincinnati enrolled **41,970** students—22,846 (approximately 54.4%) of whom were women. In the 2011-12 academic year of 7,901 students who graduated from UC, 4,366 were women (55.3%).

PRESIDENTS...

In 2003 **Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher** became the first female president of the University and the only one to date. “Under President Zimpher's direction, the University of Cincinnati made significant strides in its UC|21 vision to become a leading urban research institution for the 21st century,” Office of the President, uc.edu.

The first female President of the Undergraduate Student Government was **Lynn Mueller** in 1963. However, no woman has been president of the Undergraduate Student Government Student Association since the 1993-94 academic year.

FACULTY...

According to the earliest available documentation at the University Archives, in 1904, **M. Elizabeth J. Czarnomska** served as the Dean of Women and lecturer on English and Biblical Literature.

PROGRAMS...

The *1876-77 University of Cincinnati Report* explains that the University's establishment was assisted by a generous gift from **Mr. Charles McMicken**. According to the Report, “By the conditions upon which the gift of Mr. McMicken was received, it is enjoined that the education which may be furnished at the University shall be irrespective of sex. All the privileges of the University of Cincinnati are open to women” (10). Although the education of women was mandated to be equal to that of men, dorms, gyms, and debate teams were segregated by sex.

Additionally, in 1925, the School of Household Administration was established “to equip women with such training as will enable her to administer a home scientifically, efficiently, and happily,” *University of Cincinnati Record* 1925-26 (409). Although women and men were afforded the same educational opportunities since the University's inception, the history of segregation and specialized homemaking programs give us a peek at the climate of the University during its formative years. ■ Lydia Weiss

Sources: www.uc.edu; “*Educated Pioneers: Black Women at the University of Cincinnati, 1897-1940*” by Delores Thompson and Lyle Koehler in *Educated Pioneers, Winter 1985*; “*Student Government Representatives*” compiled by Allison Burton for the University Archives (<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/arb/archives/collections/universityarchives.html>).

“By the conditions upon which the gift of Mr. McMicken was received, it is enjoined that the education which may be furnished at the University shall be irrespective of sex. All the privileges of the University of Cincinnati are open to women”

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE... UCWC TIMELINE

1922

First **C-Ring Award** given by the Athletics Department to the “best all around gal.” The C-Ring has evolved to become an all-university award based on several rigorous criteria. In order to be eligible, a woman must have a minimum 3.4 grade point average and must demonstrate a commitment to the betterment of our campus, community and the advancement of women.

1979

Women’s Programs and Services received an **operating budget** from within Student Affairs

Women’s Programs and Services obtained a physical **office space** in Sander Hall

1980

May: **C-Ring**, honoring the outstanding graduating senior woman at the University, was first presented by Women’s Programs and Services to Ms. Debbie Hinzman

May 17: Co-sponsored “**Sexual Harassment Conference**”

September 6: Co-sponsored **Take Back the Night** march

December: Women’s Programs and Services published the **Sexual Harassment Report**

1987

WPS office moved from Dabney Hall to **Tangeman University Center (TUC)**

Students Trained in Interpersonal Relationships (STIR) was formed by Nancy Spence, director of Women’s Programs and Services, to help students develop healthy and open relationships

1978

Office of **Women’s Programs and Services** established as part of the UC Division of Student Affairs

Mary Ellen Ashley appointed as Associate Vice Provost for Women’s Programs and Services



May 14, 1989: **Laura Fitzpatrick** received the prestigious **C-Ring Award** from **Nancy Spence**, Director of Women’s

1984

May: For the second time in the award’s history, the **C-Ring** was awarded to two individuals – the recipients were Debora Averback and Ann Dunn Posey

1986

Students Organize Against Rape (**SOAR**) founded

University of Cincinnati **Child Care Center, Inc.** opened

1988

Formed new student group **Students Educating About Eating Disorders (SEED)**

Achieved **national recognition** for Students Trained in Interpersonal Relationships (STIR)

Timeline Continues...

Reflections on the Past and Visions for the Future: Insights from the UC Women’s Center Directors

The University of Cincinnati Women’s Center has experienced 35 years of activism, student organizing, and advancing the roles of women on campus. Each director of the UCWC has brought a unique perspective and passion to the work of the Center. Throughout the years, five directors have led the Center in the quest for gender equality. Beginning with our most recent leader and working backwards through history, it is obvious that regardless of their journey towards the position at the UCWC, each director has been committed to the Center’s mission.

Barbara Rinto has served as the director since September 2002. During her 11 years, she noted several significant achievements of the Center. “We have built on the outstanding work of previous staff and students and expanded our sexual assault survivor support by creating a model peer advocacy program. “**Reclaim** was implemented by Associate Director Amy Howton.’ Another milestone was the establishment of the first stand-alone LGBTQ Center and the hiring of the first Center director, former WC GA, Leisan Smith. Student activists, faculty and staff lobbied successfully to have an LGBTQ Center. Other highlights including the launch of \$tart \$mart to ensure students have the knowledge to negotiation their first compensation package and thereby reduce historical gender pay inequities and the development of WILL, a multi-year leadership program offered in collaboration with the Dept. of Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Rinto acknowledges that there have been difficulties along the way, such as bridging the gap between Student Affairs and the academic side of the campus, but that overall, the Center’s work for the past 35 years has been crucial to campus life. For the future, Rinto hopes that the Women’s Center can be “successful in making the case for increased support for students with dependent children”.

When asked, “If everyone could know *one* thing about the UCWC, what would you make sure they knew?” Rinto responded, “ Although women now comprise a majority of the student population, their voices are not yet heard with the seriousness and power they deserve. We are here to help women students find their voices.”

Dr. Robin Selzer began her time at Women’s Programs and Services as a student assistant, then eventually as a Graduate Assistant in the office. She later became a Program Director, then Assistant Director and served as the Interim Director from 2001-2002, at the end of which she left UC to pursue her PhD at Loyola University. She has since returned to UC and currently serves as the Assistant Director at the Pre-Professional Advising Center. Selzer stated that the biggest accomplishment she witnessed at the Women’s Center was “the growth in general” – particularly the LGBT outreach. Selzer acknowledged that the success of LGBT outreach and advocacy on campus was due to the groundwork laid by Chris Bobel and the continued advocacy of Barb Rinto and the Women’s Center staff. “The need was recognized and there was a push for growth and advocacy,” Selzer said.

When asked what the 35th anniversary of the Center means to her, with tears in her eyes, Selzer said, “I grew up there. I spent my entire 20s in the Women’s Center. It’s validation of my identity and the identity of so many women. The Women’s Center changed my life. It led me to have experiences with mentors who I will never be able to thank enough – mentors who coached and guided me to become my best self. Selzer continued this thought by stating, “I will always have a Women’s Center view, and a feminist/womanist view on things. It’s identity development 101 and transformative leadership 101.” Selzer hopes for the continued recognition of the importance of the Center on campus and in the community. *(Feature continues on Page 10.)*

Each director of the UCWC has brought a unique perspective and passion to the work of the Center.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Title IX



The UC Women's Basketball team practices for their 2011-2012 season.

In 2012, Title IX celebrated 40 years of equal opportunity promotion...

"Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is federal legislation that bans sex discrimination in education programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance (like the University)"

(University of Cincinnati).

Although Title IX is most commonly known for its protection of female athletics, the amendment also breaks down barriers for female students to pursue math and science fields, requires fair treatment for pregnant and parenting students, and protects students from bullying and sexual harassment (National Women's Law Center).

According to the National Women's Law Center, "Before Title IX, schools required girls to take classes in home-making and sewing while boys took woodshop. Title IX now states that schools must treat male and female students equally in career and technical education programs."

Who's Who in Title IX?

Title IX legislation was born out of the hard work and dedication of many politicians and activists.

"Dr. Bernice R. Sandler...is today widely known as the "Godmother of Title IX" for her pivotal role in the creation and implementation of the law. Dr. Sandler began fighting for the rights of women in education after she personally experienced sex discrimination when she was told she came on "too strong for a woman" to be hired in academia..."

In addition, Dr. Sandler, alongside Rep. Edith Green, worked to spearhead hearings which documented discrimination in employment and education and eventually led to the passage of Title IX and other anti-discrimination laws" (ACLU).

"Representative Edith Green's (Oregon) commitment to education earned her the nickname "Mrs. Education," and...is probably most noted for her work in helping to create the legislation that was to become Title IX. Green was particularly motivated to fight inequality in education after learning in the late 1960's

that while there were programs designed to help keep boys in school, there was nothing similar in place for girls. Working alongside fellow Rep. Patsy Mink and Sen. Birch Bayh, Rep. Green worked to introduce a bill that contained provisions for gender equity in education, which following hearings resulted in the passage of Title IX in 1972" (ACLU).

"A visionary leader and pioneer in education reform, Representative Patsy T. Mink (Hawaii) is also recognized as the major author and sponsor of Title IX... In 1964, Mink was elected as the first woman of color and first Asian-American in the House of Representatives and went on to serve 12 terms" (ACLU).

"Former Indiana Senator Birch Bayh, who served between the years of 1963 and 1981, is known today as the "father" of Title IX because of his role in crafting the original legislation and seeing through its passage in the Senate" (ACLU).

Today the work of these visionary politicians and activists is being protected by equally as passionate people.

At the University of Cincinnati, the office of Equal Opportunity and Access ensures that the University complies with these types of federal policies. ■ Lydia Weiss

Sources: www.uc.edu/hr/faqs/equal_opportunity.html; www.nwlc.org/title-ix/resources; www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLCItsYourEducation2010.pdf; www.aclu.org/womens-rights/title-ix-nine

UCWC TIMELINE 1990-2000

1990

Sexual Assault Survivors Support group founded by student Dina Brown – supported by Women's Programs and Services

1994

October 3-7: First "**Rape Awareness Week**" hosted by Women's Programs and Services

1998

Women's Programs and Services changed name to **University of Cincinnati Women's Center (UCWC)**

Students Organize Against Rape (SOAR) received the **Just Community Award**

Founded and chaired the **Sexual Offense Response Team (SORT)**, to implement UC's Sexual Offense Policy, including the creation of a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Chris Bobel became Director of UCWC

Obtained funding to hire first **LGBTQ focused graduate assistant**

Safe Zone trainings inaugurated by UCWC with support from Student Affairs and Services offices

2000

Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) was founded

UCWC group **Women and Racism** received the *Just Community Award*

Winter Quarter: **White Women Against Racism (WWAR)** formed

Created the **Greek Peer Advocacy Program**

1991

Students Organize Against Rape (SOAR) awarded a **Certificate of Appreciation** by JC Penny Golden Rule Award Committee

Women's Programs and Services **expanded its services** to include support and advocacy for gay students

1996

April 15-19: First "**Body Acceptance Week**"

1999

April: First annual "**UC Take Our Daughters to Work Day**"

UC MOMS (Mothers Organizing Maximum Support) was formed through collaboration with Graduate & Family Housing

LGBTQ social support groups started by UCWC

Shades of You: A Society for Women of Color formed



October 15, 2000: UC Women's Center organized a trip to Washington, D.C. for the World March of Women



UCWC TIMELINE 2001– TODAY!

2001

May 12: First **C-Ring Banquet** hosted by the Women's Center

May: **Women's Initiatives Network (WIN)** established as an umbrella for all women's organizations on campus

Fall Quarter: **Robin Selzer** became UCWC Interim Director

2004

UCWC added **women faculty and staff** to constituency by assuming responsibility for the Women's Initiative Network (WIN)

Spring Quarter: UCWC conducted the **Survey on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues**

April 1: First "**Brown Bag Lunch Meeting**" hosted by "MOMS" student-parent group was held at UCWC

2008

March 5: First performance of *The Coochie Chronicles* - monologues by/about women of color

October: First **CONNECT Conference** – aim is to connect First-Year women to Upper-Class women in leadership on campus

2011

April 4: **Enough is Enough** campaign begins on campus (UCWC is a part of the effort to end campus violence); April 4-8 was Enough is Enough week

April 15: First "**UC Monologues**" co-sponsored with Wellness Center and GenderBloc

June 12: Assisted with 1st annual "**Rainbow Celebration**" honoring 2010-2011 graduates

2002

February: First year Women's Center staff became involved with performance of *The Vagina Monologues* – hosted by Women's Studies

September 2: **Barb Rinto** started as Director of UCWC

2005

Spring Quarter: UCWC conducted focus group **surveys for student-parents**

Fall: **Peer Advocate Program** founded (now known as Reclaim)

September: UCWC moved office location to **Steger Student Life Center**

2007

February: First UCWC **Student Choice Award** for Women of the Year

2010

First **LGBTQ Program Director** hired – Leisan Smith October: First application of **Activists Coming Together (ACT)** – first cohort accepted

2012

First Cohort of Women in Leadership and Learning (WILL) – a multi-year learning community designed to develop feminist student leadership.

2013

University of Cincinnati Women's Center celebrates its **35th anniversary!**



MainStreet Stride 2012— Student LifeSavers, Melissa Muchmore, Kim Fulbright, Danielle Rains



Janelle Wichmann, 2013 C-Ring Award Recipient

Reclaim Your Life: Responding to Sexual Assault

The Women's Center successfully advocated for the creation of a full-time Sexual Assault Response Coordinator position which was solely responsible for responding to the 24-hour Sexual Assault Hotline and providing crisis intervention to survivors. In 2005, the Women's Center developed a peer advocacy program to support this position. This program provided students the opportunity to create change on their campus by providing support to peers. A best practice in campus response to sexual assault, the peer advocacy program recruited, selected, and provided forty-hours of training to students to prepare them to respond to the helpline, and provide support and advocacy. In 2006, the peer advocate program was named *Reclaim* by UC student, Rachel Shaw, branding the program with strength, empowerment, and decreased barriers for men accessing services.

The program has since evolved from one centered on service provision to a more nuanced program focused on activism related to sexual violence prevention. Students in *Reclaim* now have the opportunity to serve on one of two teams: education or support. Reclaim is a critical component of the university response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Reclaim serves as a model program and is nationally benchmarked; in 2009, Reclaim was granted privileged status to provide confidential support and advocacy. Survivors can now safely explore all options available to them (reporting options; support services; remedies) without having to make a report. Reclaim advocates gain valuable practical experience in the field of sexual violence response while building community with other students passionate about making change on our campus. ■ Amy Howton

C-Ring Award: Honoring Outstanding Women at UC

The C-Ring Award has been recognizing graduating senior women at UC for over 90 years. The award was first given in 1922 by the Athletics Department to the best "all around gal," but has evolved to become an University wide award. The Women's Center began presenting the award in 1980.

The award selection committee is composed of a diverse array of UC students, faculty and staff who have the difficult task of choosing a winner from a group of incredible nomi-

nees each year. In order to be eligible for nomination, a woman must demonstrate commitment to advocacy for women and girls and have an outstanding academic record.

In 2012 the selection committee awarded *two* women for their excellence on campus and beyond. Lauren Magrisso was honored for pioneering student-led sustainability efforts at UC and completing her co-op in India helping women artisans generate more business. Julie Marzec was honored for her role as the

President of UC Model United Nations, serving as a translator for Su Casa to help undocumented immigrant women who have experienced domestic violence, and many other amazing accomplishments!

The C-Ring Award honors the success of women students at UC and celebrates their commitment to the advancement of women! ■ Lydia Weiss

Editor's Note: *Janelle Wichmann* was announced as the 2013 recipient after this article was published.

"Reclaim is a critical component of the university response to sexual and gender-based violence."