AY 2011-2012 Annual Report

1.1 Women’s Resource Center

1.2. Distinctive Mission and Purpose Statements:
   A. Mission Statement: The mission of the Women’s Resource Center is to provide Loyola women and men with a positive college experience by responding to their needs as gendered human beings and by fostering an environment that is free of sexism and other forms of institutional and individual oppression.

   B. General Statement: The Women’s Resource Center strives to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment through programming, services, and advocacy. The Center supports the educational mission of Women’s Studies through programming and services: it offers opportunities for students to explore questions and concerns and provides opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional development and empowerment through programming; it encourages and promotes the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge about women amongst faculty; and it seeks to include and respond to the needs of staff members.

1.3. Executive Summary: During the Academic Year 2011-2012 the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) offered a variety of programs meant to engage both the Loyola and greater New Orleans communities. The WRC partnered with a number of other units on campus, drawing on the strengths of our staff, faculty, and students here at Loyola to provide meaningful programs. One of the WRC goals is to regularly offer programming that is holistic and multi-dimensional. The WRC has strived in the past few years to include more input from the Loyola community and has worked especially to give a voice to students (the creation of the WRC Student Advisory Board in 2009-2010 and the addition of student interns in 2010-2011) in the types of programs we offer. In addition, we continue to be intentional about outreach efforts to the New Orleans community and beyond.

2. Assessment of Center’s Strategic Goals for 2011-2012

The 2011-2012 objectives were met through a variety of programming, outreach efforts, and activities of the director over the course of the year. The integration of paid interns at the WRC has had a significant impact on the ways the center has been able to reach the student body. Their work at the Center added an important student perspective that helped create more meaningful programs, and their work to promote and publicize events helped make the programs and the Center more visible. (e.g. the creation of a WRC Facebook account) Additionally, interns were encouraged to spearhead and plan their own programs. This work gave them valuable experience in organizing, program implementation, and leadership.

The initiative that had the most impact on campus in the ways it served to educate and create meaningful dialogue was our “I’m a Feminist Because...” campaign which had more than fifty faculty, staff, and student participants. Even the oppositional viewpoints and some of the controversy surrounding them allowed for a teachable moment that highlighted the fact that the “women’s rights issue” is still not settled
and that it is therefore not only culturally relevant, but critical from a social justice standpoint to continue to advocate and fight for women’s rights.

The WRC also hosted several programs that featured powerfully inspirational panelists and speakers who presented issues of women’s leadership and women’s rights as human rights: the Women in Politics forum; Michelle Goldberg’s discussion about reproductive rights and the 2012 election; and the “Women, Journalism, and the Arab Spring” discussion with Ann Hermes (’03). The feedback we received from audience members at all three events was overwhelmingly positive. Students who attended the women in politics forum left with invitations from the panelists to apply for internships and scholarships, and to visit the state capitol. Michelle Goldberg’s lecture offered a sharp insight into the history and workings of our political parties vis a vis women’s issues. Ann Hermes’ talent for telling a story through both her words and her photographs inspired us and gave us all a better understanding of Egyptian society and politics against the backdrop of the events that unfolded in Tahrir Square.

In terms of outreach we have continued to build relationships through both programming and the Director’s activities: such as offering our monthly Women Read book group that includes alumnae and members of the New Orleans community; working with Tulane and Dillard universities to plan Take Back the Night; meeting with leaders from Puentes and Vayla to address the needs of the young women of the latino and vietnamese communities; supporting the Delgado College Women’s Center’s efforts to bring Start Smart to their campus; attending the NWSA Conference with two of the WRC interns meeting with center directors, faculty, and students from other universities; attending the Louisiana Women’s Leadership Caucus breakfast; meeting with national and local representatives from the AAUW to help plan next year’s national conference in New Orleans; and maintaining relationships with CARE and the Metropolitan Center for Women and Children.

And finally, it is important to note the support given to students, faculty, and staff whether in the form of advocacy of some kind, or simply providing a safe and welcoming space for those who need it.

The objectives that were not met were those dealing with evaluation processes (other than those for SACS), and those that relied on other units to initiate action. It would be better to focus on setting objectives that the WRC and its director have some control over initiating/acting on. The evaluation process and development of a three-year strategic plan will likely be easier to undertake in a year where there is no intense university-wide evaluation and accreditation underway.

In conclusion, the Women’s Resource Center continues to offer meaningful programs that educate, support, and empower our Loyola community. The addition of student interns has been critical to the Center’s outreach and to the effectiveness of programming. The future development of the Center might involve more community and alumni outreach and a move to fundraising for the Center. If we are to move in this direction, then eventually adding an assistant director, at least part-time, to help manage programming would be necessary.
3. Summary of Women’s Resource Center’s Achievements and Committee Service

3.1. Staff: One full time director, 1 part time work study student, 3 part-time paid student interns.

3.2 Summary of Center Programming and Achievements

3.2.i Unit as a whole:

Fall 2011

**Human Trafficking** in the U.S. – speaker Shamere McKenzie, survivor. WRC as co-sponsor. (October 4)

**Breast Cancer Awareness Activities:** Decorate Your Own Bra and Healthcare Presentation by Erin Frye, NP from Student Health (October 5); and Team Loyola participates in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides. Co-sponsored with Res Life. (October 15)

**20th Anniversary of Take Back the Night.** Co-sponsored with Loyola’s UCC, Tulane and Dillard. (October 26)

“Women’s Studies or Gender Studies: What’s in a Name?” A panel discussion on naming and women’s and gender studies programs with guest moderator Dr. Donna Lillian. Co-sponsored with the Women’s Studies Program. (November 3)

Monthly:

- Fall Brown Bag lunch series: “Junior Faculty Research”
  --Laura Murphy, Department of English: “Slavery in the 21st Century” (September 21)
  --Brenda Vollman, Department of Criminal Justice: “Childhood Sexual Victimization and Gender: Girls are Not Alone. A Case Study of the Sexual Abuse of Minors in the U.S. Catholic Church” (October 5)
  --Charles Corprew, Department of Psychology: “Men at the Crossroads: Understanding Hyper masculinity in Emerging Adulthood from a Collegiate Perspective” (October 19)
  --Naomi Yavneh, Director University Honors Program: “American Icons: The Virgin Mary, Daisy Low, and the Founding of the Girl Scouts in 1912” (November 16)

- Women’s Studies interdisciplinary discussion group: “The Proscribed Roles of Women” (Participants: Barbara Ewell, English; Jaita Talukdar, Sociology; Sara Butler, History; Mari Rethelyi, Religious Studies; and Karen Reichard, Women’s Studies)

- Loyola Women Read book club gatherings

- Craftivism Group (three meetings)
Spring 2011

“I’m a feminist because….” project. (January 30 – February 3)

Love Your Body Week:
This year’s programming included an exploration of the ways body image is influenced by the intersection of stereotypes of race and gender.

- February 13: “Masculinity, Race, and Body Image” (co-sponsored with The Coalition, moderator Dr. Charles Corprew)
- February 14: “Take off your Makeup Day” (co-sponsored with SAGE)
- February 15: Guest Speaker Robyn McGee: “Hungry for More – African American Women and Body Image” (co-sponsored with the Center for Intercultural Understanding and the Office of Co-Curricular Programs)
- February 17: Meditation Session with Laura Quigley
- (Other: WRC Intern Initiatives – Body Mapping Project; Price Display – “The costs of beauty”)

Women, Civic Engagement and the Political Arena:

- Women in Politics Forum. Panelists: Senator Karen Carter Peterson, Louisiana State Senator from District 5; Elizabeth Brusseau, Tulane undergraduate student and candidate for the New Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee; Brooke Smith, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Mayor Mitch Landrieu; LaVerne Saulny, Regional Manager for U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu; Maria Pabon Lopez, Dean Loyola College of Law; and moderated by Natasha Bingham, Professor Political Science. (March 6)
- “Elect Her” – Student Leadership Training Program. In collaboration with AAUW and Running Start. (March 10)
- Guest speaker Michelle Goldberg, author and journalist: “What’s at Stake: Reproductive Rights and the 2012 Elections” (March 16)

Women in the Workplace: “Start Smart” – Negotiating Skills Student Workshop. Co-sponsored with Evening Division, the Career Development Center, and the Career Development and Law Practice Center. (March 24)

Sexual Non-Violence Week (April 12-20)

- “Gendered Homicide: Differences in Male and Female Offenders” A Brown Bag Presentation by Julia d’Antonio del Rio, Department of Sociology (April 12)
- Peace Quad peace garden planting. Co-sponsored with the UCC. (April 12)
• “Women, Journalism, and the Arab Spring: A Photojournalist in Tahrir Square”
  Presentation by Ann Hermes, Loyola Alumna ’03. Co-sponsored with the Peace Conference. (April 16)
• Student-organized Poetry Slam and student-directed play: “The Vagina Monologues”
  both supported by the WRC. (April 20)

**Monthly:**

• Women’s Studies monthly interdisciplinary discussion groups: “Constructing and Deconstructing Narratives of Femininity” (Participants: Sara Butler, History; Rae Taylor, Criminal Justice; Barbara Ewell, English; Brenda Vollman, Criminal Justice; Karen Reichard, WRC)
• Spring Brown Bag Lunch Series: “Junior Faculty Research:
  --Natasha Bingham, Department of Political Science: “Gendering Civil Society: Women’s Organizations in Former Soviet Republics” (March 8)
  --Ginger Hoffman, Department of Philosophy: “What, If Anything, Can Neuroscience Tell Us About Gender Differences?” (March 29)
  --Julia d’Antonio del Rio, Department of Sociology (see above reference under Sexual Non-Violence Week) (April 12)

• Loyola Women Read gatherings (Beginning in April the book group will choose books that correspond to the twelve Jesuit Ideals as part of Loyola’s Centennial Celebration.)

**3.2.ii Achievements/Service of Director**

**Presentations/Guest Lectures:**
Guest lecture on Gender Roles for Liv Newman’s “Diversity in Society” First Year Seminar (October 10)

Guest lecture on Madame Bovary for Barbara Ewell’s “Kate Chopin” class (October 19)

Moderator for LUSSO’s panel: “Gray Areas: Perspectives on Women’s Reproductive Rights” with panelists Kathleen Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Sociology; Julie Thibodaux, ACLU attorney; and Sally Winn, representative from Feminists for Life (October 27)

Panelist for LSCE forum on condom availability: “Contraception on Campus: The Safety and Morality of Condoms” (November 17)

Presentation on Global Women’s Issues and Advocacy to New Orleans branch of the women’s group Zonta (January 14)
Guest lecture on women’s issues and resources at Loyola for Laura Hope and Elizabeth Parent’s First Year Theatre course (December 2)

Presentation on “The Other F Word” for SAGE’s monthly guest lecture series (February 1)

Presentation on “Sexual Assault in a Social and Historical Context” for the Sexual Assault Advocacy Initiative Training hosted by the UCC (April 21)

**Maroon Articles:**
“Feminism Plays a Crucial Role in Today’s Society” (March 2, 2012)

**Teaching:**
Fall 2011 FYE Seminar: “All the World’s a Stage: The Performance of Gender” (included a required Service Learning component)

**Advising:**
Advisor to SAGE (Student Advocates for Gender Equality)

**Committee Service:**
- ED - Member of WS committee (and steering committee): 2008-present
- ST - Member of HEAL committee: 2008-present
- ED, ST - Member of Diversity committee: 2008-present
- ED - Member of Center for Faculty Innovation Advisory committee: 2010-present
- ED - Member of CFI working group on extraordinary faculty:2011
- UI - Member of Centennial committee:2011-2012
- ST - Member of Care and Concern committee: 2011-present
- ST - Member of Safe Zone working group: 2011-present
- ST - Member of the Student Leadership Awards committee: 2008-present

**Community Service:**
- Board member (board secretary) of Metropolitan Center for Women and Children: January 2009-December 2011

**Conferences:**
Attended the 2011 NWSA Conference in Atlanta GA.

**Leadership:**
- Member of the Provost’s 2011-2012 Higher Education Administration Leadership Group
4. Strategic Planning and Goals for 2011-2012:

i. Continue to provide relevant programs and events and respond to the educational needs of the campus community.

ii. Continue to strengthen and develop collaborative ties with student organizations and other campus organizations/offices/centers/academic departments/colleges through co-programming and providing support by the WRC.

iii. Continue outreach efforts and community engagement activities both on-campus and off-campus.

iv. Continue committee work and service to the University.

v. Continue professional development activities/projects and professional contributions.

5. Assessment

5.1 Methods of Assessment: discussion and feedback from Women’s Studies Committee and Women’s Resource Center Student Advisory Board; “exit” meetings at the end of programs with partners in the program; informal discussion with students, faculty, staff, and community partners about programming; and pre and post evaluation forms for workshops.

6. Budget

5.1 Previous year’s budget: $10,000

5.1.1 The budget of $12,000 for 2011-2012 was sufficient for programming this academic year. As in previous years, co-programming with other units helps to mitigate the budgetary constraints.

5.2 The upcoming year’s expected budget: $12,000. As of now the primary costs are associated with programming such as guest speakers, Take Back the Night, Love Your Body Week, Sexual Non-Violence Week, and regular monthly/yearly WRC programs.
7. Planning and Goals for the upcoming year

7.1 General Statement:

The process of strategic planning for the upcoming year will be a combination of consultation with the Women's Studies Committee and Student Advisory Board as well as an evaluation of the data collected from focus-groups, individualized dialogue, and surveys that will be conducted throughout the year.

7.2 The WRC support of the strategic plan of the University:

The goals and objectives and the programming that is created by the WRC to meet those goals and objectives keeps in mind the overall strategic plan of the University. Through its programming, the WRC intentionally responds to the stated values of our university of acting justly and thinking critically in a way that engages both our Loyola and our New Orleans community. Further, the WRC seeks ways to build on our strengths as a university, partnering with units across campus to provide excellent programming to our faculty, staff, and students. And as we move forward, we will build on our outreach efforts, with an increased focus on reaching out to other universities, to our New Orleans community and to communities beyond through organizational membership, service, social justice activism, and community partnering.

7.3 Strategic plan/goals:

- integration of gender considerations into campus programming and curriculum;
- establishment of positive policies and protocols that take into consideration gender and women's issues; and
- development of strong community relationships with a focus on girls' and women's empowerment

Objectives for 2012-2013

- Offering meaningful, substantive programming that engages our campus community in conversation around women's and gender issues;
- Offering programs that highlight our Centennial Year Celebration
- Serving as an advocate for integration of women's and gender issues through college service and committee work;
- Creating a WRC e-newsletter
- Co-programming with other centers, departments, and units;
- Promoting and offering community service and activism projects;
- Continuing work with the Women's Studies Committee to formulate a strategic plan;
- Continuing to work with faculty to integrate center programming in women's studies courses;
- Supporting student interest in gender and women's issues through advising of the SAGE; consultation with the WRC Student Advisory Board; offering internships at the WRC; dedicating a portion of the operating budget to helping students attend conferences and leadership workshops;
- Building new and growing existing relationships with other universities and community partners through existing and new programming;
- Focusing on the WRC Director’s professional development through activities such as conference presentations, course development, and project planning and implementation based on the HERS Institute experience.