January 2014

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January is . . .
National Stalking Awareness Month

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects 6.6 million victims a year. This year’s theme—“Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.”—challenges all of us to fight stalking by learning more about it.

Stalking is defined as a course of conduct composed of 2 or more unconsented contacts that would cause a reasonable person to feel frightened, terrorized, intimidated or harassed. Stalking may take many forms, including assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted contact.

As technology has become an important part of our everyday lives, it has also become more common for stalkers to misuse it to harass, terrify, intimidate, coerce, and monitor former and current intimate partners. Perpetrators also misuse technology to stalk before, during and after perpetrating sexual violence.

Stalkers may misuse technology by:
• Sending multiple e-mails or text messages a day
• Monitoring a survivor’s computer activity through Spyware
• Tracking the location of a victim’s vehicle through GPS
• Utilizing social networking sites to gather information about the survivor
• Watching the victim through hidden cameras
• Intercepting calls and messages
• Impersonating the victim

It may be difficult to discern whether a stalker is utilizing technology to carry out their stalking behavior. In some cases, the stalker may seem to “know too much” about a survivor’s computer activity, places they visited, their day-to-day activities and conversations they had on the phone. It’s important that survivors trust their instincts and are provided support in exploring the technologies that a stalker may be using.

If you are being stalked, here are some technology-related tips that you might consider:
• Meet with an advocate for assistance with assessing the situation and safety planning.

Additional details of Ms. McKenzie’s visit will be available in the February issue of Wisdom, Words & Women.

Mia McKenzie . . .
Lydia Weiss

Claims that we live in a “post-race” society and have become a common denial of the existence of racism. “Race doesn’t really matter anymore,” say people who believe discrimination is a thing of the past. As state after state passes marriage equality, many people are also claiming that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer (LGBTQ) identified individuals have also achieved equality.

However, as we kick-off Project 60/50 at MSU to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, our campus community has been challenged to acknowledge and respect the work that has yet to be done on issues of social justice. Despite the amazing advances towards equality our nation has seen over the past 60 years, and in contrast to claims of parity for all people, the fight for social justice has not ended.

This “unfinished business” in regard to racial, gender, sexuality, nationality, ability, etc., justice is precisely why the MSU Women’s Resource Center is bringing Mia McKenzie to campus on March 12, 2014 from 6:00PM—7:30PM. McKenzie is the Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of Black Girl Dangerous (BGD), a blog which “seeks to, in as many ways possible, amplify the voices, experiences and expressions of queer and trans* people of color.” Black Girl Dangerous provides a virtual space for people of all different backgrounds to share their voices, literary and artistic talents, and create a community and collective activism. The blog covers topics ranging from spirituality, love and language to topics on colonization, intersectionality and disidentification. Submissions to BGD often use theoretical/philosophical concepts that are backed up by the author’s lived experiences.

McKenzie is also the recipient of the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction for her novel The Summer We Got Free. We hope that McKenzie’s visit will encourage people to rethink the world we live in and inspire people to action.

Additional details of Ms. McKenzie’s visit will be available in the February issue of Wisdom, Words & Women.

Article Continued on Page 2
FREE LUNCH INCLUDED—MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND!

The MLK Jr., Student Leadership Conference

January 20, 2014. Akers Hall Dining Room, MSU.

Contact Ignacio Andrade at (517) 353-3922 or Andrade@msu.edu for additional information.

registration is required at:  www.inclusion.msu.edu/mlk.

Andrade@msu.edu for additional information.

MSU Safe Place and stalking can also be found at www.safeplace.msu.edu.

By attending the MLK, Student Leadership Conference, you will be posting information about stalking throughout the month of January on Facebook (www.facebook.com/msuSafePlace) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/msuSafePlace). More information about MSU Safe Place can also be found at www.safeplace.msu.edu.

Check also for frequent updates!
Successful Black Women of MSU
Giving Back—Building Community Through Pen Pals

Audrey Smith

Volunteering has its rewards. Fall 2011, the Successful Black Women (SBW) of MSU was contacted by Ms. Carolyn Bonham, MSU alum, who invited the organization to be pen pals to a group of third grade girls at El-Shabazz Public School Academy where she teaches. Beginning Spring 2012, under the leadership of Ms. Lauren Moore, SBWMSU President and Tinisha Sharp, SBWMSU Community Outreach Coordinator, the group accepted the invitation and began mentoring the young girls in Ms. Bonham’s class through weekly letters. The Initiative continued until the end of Spring Semester. Assessing the Pen Pal Initiative and the bonds that were made, SBWMSU decided that this was an outreach opportunity they would like to participate in every year and that it was important to include the third grade boys as well.

The second year (Fall 2012-Spring 2013) of the Pen Pal Initiative with El-Shabazz Public School Academy, SBWMSU sent a call out to many of the men’s organizations on campus, asking for volunteers who would be willing to be pen pals to the boys. Several male groups responded in overwhelming numbers—so much so that there were two, third grade classes included in the Pen Pal Initiative for the 2012-2013 academic year. With the expansion, not only were the students communicating on a weekly basis, but because March is known as “Reading Month,” the MSU pen pals visited the classrooms to read to the classes and meet their pen pals over several days during the month of March.

The 2013-2014 academic year marks the third year of the SBWMSU Pen Pal Initiative. Led by the current SBWMSU Community Outreach Coordinator Orianna Greathouse, the Initiative continues to be an activity that draws a sense of consciousness and touches the hearts and minds of those participating. Several of the MSU pen pals have volunteered multiple years because of the experience and enrichment it has brought to their lives. This year’s MSU students and El-Shabazz Public School Academy third grade students looked excitedly toward being matched with their pen pal. Whether you call it “planting seeds” or “giving back”, the fact is, lives are being changed. A few current MSU pen pals share why they participate:

“I decided to participate in the Pen Pal Initiative because I have a strong passion for kids. Elementary Education is my major so I have had numerous pen pals and I enjoy them. Some children do not have someone they can have some conversations with at home, so to them this means everything. I also get to see my pen pal's creative side—I have received pictures of SpongeBob, hearts, and even school logos. They love to support college students, and I myself love to support and talk to them. This has been a lot of fun. I have learned so much about my pen pal Ta’Jaha and look forward to her letters. This has also made me more aware and willing to meet the timelines, because I know that if I miss one letter it would be disappointing to her and I would not want to do that.” –Ashley Moorehead, SBWMSU Parliamentarian

“I decided to participate in this Initiative because I see that it is effecting the youth. I remember having a pen pal in my second grade class and it was a very unique opportunity that opened my eyes to a lot of different things. As an MSU pen pal it has been a great opportunity to touch a young child’s life. I already feel like I have challenged the child to think more creatively and in different perspectives as I ask questions that I wish I would have been asked as a young child. I also feel like I have proven to engage my pen pal because he has written a lot more and asks a lot more questions. The engagement of my pen pal is worth the small sacrifice of time that I give.” –Resheid Jackson, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

“I decided to participate in the SBW Pen Pal Initiative because I wanted to encourage and uplift a young girl. One of my dreams in life is to start a mentoring program for boys and girls, and being a part of this program has given me the chance to put one foot forward. To me, being a pen pal is a great experience. I get excited about getting my letters and learning more about my pen pal. Being a pen pal means that I get to help build the community while also starting my future.” –Natalie Elliott, SBWMSU Member

“I wanted to participate because it is a minimal effort initiative that can have a huge impact. It allows me to have an indirect impact on someone’s life and to influence them to do great things. So far it has meant a lot to me to participate in the Pen Pal Initiative. My pen pal described me as “awesome” which made me feel great! We have a lot in common and it makes a difference to me that I am able to put a smile on a child’s face. Any little way that I can have a positive impact on someone’s life, I am totally down for.” –George Williams, NPHC President, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Yes, many individuals can relate to the above-noted remarks/comments. Now, let’s hear from Ms. Carolyn Bonham the El-Shabazz Public School Academy third grade teacher whose vision opened the door to this partnership.

“I want my students to know the importance of college, and every letter received from the MSU students spark various conversations about college that otherwise would probably not happen in the classroom. For example, we have discussed what majors are, how there are different degrees you receive upon graduation, how big some classes are, the concept that students live at school and the list goes on. As a teacher, I know those are valuable teaching moments that my students are fortunate to discuss as a result of these letters.

For students having a difficult time whether it is academics or situations outside of school, the moment I hand out the letters every student shows genuine excitement and joy as they read their letters over and over. It becomes an afternoon event that everyone participates in while they share their letters with some of their classmates or they pick three things that their pen pal wrote to them as we go around the circle to share with the class. I love the fact that my students are learning about life experiences, receiving positive messages and hearing encouragement through letters from role models they have yet to meet.”

Congratulations Successful Black Women of MSU, El-Shabazz Public School Academy, Ms. Bonham, Ms. Bonham’s Third Grade Class, and the MSU male students and organizations that have made this partnership an on-going success!!!

PAY IT FORWARD

January 2014
MSU Safe Place

Did you know that MSU Safe Place provides free education to the community?

MSU Safe Place staff are happy to come speak to student groups, church/community organizations, staff gatherings or any other group you may be involved in.

Presentations can be tailored to your needs, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- Relationship Violence and/or Stalking 101
- Myths and facts
- Statistics/prevalence
- Batterer tactics
- How to be an active bystander
- What is a healthy relationship?
- Why do victims/survivors stay in abusive relationships?
- The use of technology to stalk
- How can you help someone affected by relationship violence or stalking?
- Community resources

Videos and activities may also be utilized to add to the learning experience.

Call (355-1100) or e-mail (noabuse@msu.edu) MSU Safe Place for more details. You can also connect with us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MSUSafePlace) or Twitter (@MSUSafePlace).

Check out MSU Safe Place on the web at: http://www.safeplace.msu.edu/

MLK, Jr.—Little Known Facts

- According to a Gallup poll, King is the second most admired person in the 20th century.
- From 1957 until his death in 1968, he traveled more than 6 million miles. He gave over 2500 speeches during his travels. He also wrote 5 books and had published countless numbers of articles in newspapers and magazines.
- In a contest sponsored by the Discovery Channel, he was voted the 3rd Greatest American of all time.
- In 1934, five years after his birth, his family discovered Martin’s name had been recorded wrong on his birth certificate. The certificate said Michael King, so his name had to be legally changed to Martin Luther King Jr.

Source: http://www.squidoo.com/Martin_Luther_King_Jr

The Fourteenth ANNUAL VISITING FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH 27, 2014

The award-winning series “Slavery to Freedom: an American Odyssey” highlights persons who have become icons of the American struggle for civil rights. We are pleased to host these notable scholars who, in addition to making these public presentations, will also dedicate time to teaching MSU students on campus. All presentations will be at 5:00PM at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University.

Thursday, February 6: Rochelle Riley—Detroit Free Press columnist, blogger, author and advocate for positive race relations and children. 5:00PM, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Big Ten A. Reception following.

Thursday, February 13: Frederick D. Haynes III—Senior Pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX; author, radio show host, and social activist. 5:00PM, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Auditorium. Reception following.

Thursday, February 27: John Seigenthaler—Journalist and editor, The Tennessean; assistant and advisor to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, government liaison to Freedom Riders. 5:00PM, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Auditorium. Reception following.

Monday, January 6, 2014: Classes Begin.

Monday, January 13, 2014: First Take Back the Night Planning Committee Meeting. 6:30PM—7:30PM, MSU Union Building—Main Lounge (1st Floor). Join the Take Back the Night Planning Committee to organize this year’s event to raise awareness and prevention of sexual assault and violence. For additional information, contact Rachel Berzack (berzackr@gmail.com) or Katie Sochacki (sochack8@msu.edu).

Wednesday, January 15, 2014: Women’s Networking Association’s “Goal Setting & Achieving Seminar”. 8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM, N476 North Business College Complex. Start your new year off right by refocusing your personal and career goals and finding the tools to achieve your dreams. Presented by Judi Brown Clarke, Diversity Director for the National Science Foundation’s Bio-Computational Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Center at Michigan State University & Lansing City Councilwoman.

Thursday, January 16, 2014: Budgeting 101. 12:00N—1:00PM, MSUFCU Headquarters, 3777 West Road, East Lansing, MI. Learn budgeting basics and how to reach your desired financial goals without creating new debt. Presented by GreenPath Debt Solutions. RSVP at MSUFCU.org, e-mail pday@msufcu.org, or phone (517) 664-7725. Co-sponsored by MSUFCU and the MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Friday, January 17, 2014: Start Your Year Stress-Free. 3:00PM—4:00PM, MSU Union Building, Tower Room (4th Floor). The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to make a game plan for managing stress. This workshop will provide tips and tools for living stress-free . . . or at least as close as we can help you be! Presented by Mary Bowen, Attorney at Law, Law Office of M. Alexis Bowen, PLC. Co-sponsored by Women’s Initiative for Leadership Development and the MSU Women’s Resource Center. RSVP to wrc@msu.edu or 517-353-1635.

Saturday, January 18, 2014: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Student Leadership Conference. For additional information, see ad on page 2 and/or visit: http://inclusion.msu.edu.

Saturday, January 18, 2014: She Laughs. 7:30PM, University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Rd., Lansing, MI. Join the Women’s Center of Greater Lansing and the MSU Women’s Resource Center for an evening of comedy to banish the winter blues! Tickets are $10 for students and $20 for nonstudents. Order online at: womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org or by phone at 517-372-9163.

Monday, January 20, 2014: No Classes; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration—See events schedule (page 2).
Save The Date!!

The 21st Annual Dia de la Mujer Conference

“An Educations Worth & the Journey There”
Wellness & Well Being

“El Valor de Educacion & El Viaje Ahi”
Salud y Bienestar

The DIA DE LA MUJER Conference is an annual meeting of Chicana/Latina women who come together from all parts of the community in Michigan and the Midwest to celebrate successes, share information, and discuss issues of concern to our people. It is a day of workshops, exhibits, and entertainment focusing on La Mujer—the personal, professional, political, and academic aspects. More importantly, it is an opportunity to meet with other women like ourselves who believe in the value of community building and positive interaction.

Saturday, March 22, 2014
8:00AM—5:00PM
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

Contact:
Maria Serrato
(989) 992-1008 or serratom@msu.edu

Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT)

To register and/or for more information, visit: http://ddlm.ocat.msu.edu/

Women’s Networking Association

The mission of the Women’s Networking Association (WNA) is to connect women across campus through meaningful and empowering relationships. Providing an opportunity for women to network and support one another is an essential step for building women’s leadership at Michigan State University and in the Greater Lansing community.

SPRING SEMESTER @ A GLANCE

“Goal Setting & Achieving Seminar”
Wednesday, January 15, 2014: 8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM, N476 North Business College Complex.
Start your new year off right by refocusing your personal and career goals and finding the tools to achieve your dreams. Presented by Judi Brown Clarke, Diversity Director for the National Science Foundation’s Bio-Computational Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Center at Michigan State University & Lansing City Councilwoman.

“Communication Skills for Women”
Wednesday, February 19, 2014: 8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM, N476 North Business College Complex.
Communication is key in the workplace and your personal life. This seminar will provide successful communication skills necessary for navigating even the toughest scenarios. Presented by Jill Vondrasek, Communications Manager, MSU College of Nursing.

“Evening of Networking”
Wednesday, March 19, 2014: Time/Location—TBA
Join the Women’s Networking Association for an evening of networking, dinner and some of Lansing’s most successful and inspiring women. Details to be announced . . .

“LinkedIn Tutorial”
Wednesday, April 16, 2014: 8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM, A138 James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, (3535 Forest Road, Lansing, MI—FREE onsite parking available).
LinkedIn is a critical part of professional networking today. This “hands on” training will teach everything you need to know about LinkedIn—whether you are an experienced user or just getting started. Presented by Bethany Rigg, Associate Director, MSU MBA Career Services Center.

RSVP to wrc@msu.edu or (517) 353-1635
**Allen Neighborhood Center**

**Breast Health Club**

**What?** Free monthly postcards that include a Ticket to Wellness for discounts to community resources like passes to the Downtown YMCA, Urbandale Farm produce discounts, free yoga, and more! The postcard also includes a healthy recipe to increase your health. As a Breast Health Club (BHC) member, you can find out about health coverage and services like free or low-cost mammograms.

**Why?** To increase your overall health and prevent breast cancer.

**How?** For additional information and to sign up for the BHC, please e-mail: mariab@allennghborhoodcenter.org.

**Like us on Facebook @ “Eastside Breast Health Club”**

The Outreach Department at Allen Neighborhood Center is currently working on building up membership in the Breast Health Club. This is a free service providing coupons to classes/workshops in the community, tips for increasing overall health, and referrals for free mammograms and other testing services.

The Allen Neighborhood Center is also looking for sites in the Lansing area that would be interested in having sign-up sheets at their facilities, so that people can learn more about the ANC Breast Health Club. Please let me know if your organization would like to have these forms available, and if you have suggestions about other locations where these forms might be helpful. If interested, contact:

Tera Warn, Intern, Allen Neighborhood Center  
Intercultural Aide, OCAT  
Co-Chair, MSU Women’s Council  
warntere@msu.edu

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**Vagina Monologues**

**Friday, January 31, & Saturday, February 1, 2014**

For more information, visit:  
http://whartoncenter.com

A Performing Arts piece to raise awareness on sexual violence being committed against women and children. "The Vagina Monologues" is a series of monologues based on Eve Ensler’s interviews with women on relationships, sex, violence against women and the perception of vaginas. MSU joins an international effort, through V-Day: Until the Violence Stops, to end violence against women and girls. Proceeds from the show go to benefit MSU Safe Place and V-Day.

Source: http://www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-vagina-monologues

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**COMING SOON!**

**Mid-Michigan Women’s EXPO!**

Lansing Center — Lansing, MI  
February 7—9, 2014

**Fashion ■ Health & Wellness ■ Finances ■ Home & Garden ■ and much more!**

For details, visit: http://www.kohlerexpo.com/Home.aspx

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**Engaging ALL in providing access to resources for the ADVANCEMENT of women — Gender Matters!**

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**Welcome Back!**

Students, Faculty & Staff

January 2014
The Center for Gender in Global Context invites submissions for the TRACY DOBSON AWARD for Undergraduate Student Feminist Activism.

The Center for Gender in Global Context invites submissions for this award, named to honor Tracy Dobson’s tireless efforts to bring gender equity to MSU, launching MSU’s enhanced plan to recruit and retain women faculty and administrators. Her commitment to inform and inspire students to work for social justice led many to law school and to seek careers in public service through elected positions or the non-profit sector. Professor Dobson retired in 2011 from MSU’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The award honors an MSU undergraduate who has distinguished him or herself through exemplary local, national, or international activism on behalf of gender equity and social justice. The award will recognize those who have achieved a leadership position on behalf of their chosen cause. Evidence of commitment to a feminist cause through the college career as well as dedication to a career in some aspect of gender equity and social justice is required. To apply: please submit CV/resume and a three-page description of the feminist cause you have been involved in and your role in it. Two letters of support—from a supervisor, co-worker, peer activist or MSU faculty or staff mentor—are also required in support of your application materials.

Submissions will be reviewed by a faculty committee, and the award will be presented at the annual GenCen Open House in January. The award winner will receive a $200.00 prize.

Submissions are to be made to the GenCen office via email at gencen@msu.edu (in Microsoft Word, in formats up to Word 2013). Letters of support may be submitted electronically via email to gencen@msu.edu or by mail in hard copy. Please indicate that you are submitting to the Dobson competition and be sure to include a contact phone number and email address.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 15, 2014

Center for Gender in Global Context
206 International Center, 427 N. Shaw Lane
Michigan State University
Phone (517) 353-5040 ■ Fax (517) 432-4845
gencen@msu.edu ■ www.gencen.msu.edu

On April 12, 2014 the Michigan Campus Compact will recognize college students from across the state for their service and engagement. This award ceremony is held annually at MSU’s Kellogg Center and honors over 400 students and their families each year. The nomination process for the student Heart and Soul Awards is now open. Nominations will be accepted until 5:00PM on January 18, 2014.

Please consider nominating undergraduate and graduate students for their time, effort and personal commitment to their community through service.

For more information about the award and a link to the online nomination form please visit:
http://www.cvent.com/Surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=161a691d-cc29-4e0f-9b72-b1e832a1e376

CONGRATULATIONS from the MSU Women’s Resource Center!!!