



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Annual Women's Resource Center Recognition

#### Inspiring Women's Awards

The WRC is now collecting nominations for the 2016 Inspiring Women's Awards! Nominate women identified students, staff and faculty at UNC who inspire you and make a positive impact in our community.

Nomination forms are available at the Women's Resource Center, the UC, Cultural Centers or on our website: [www.unco.edu/IWA](http://www.unco.edu/IWA)

#### Outstanding Mentor Award

A mentor is someone who provides guidance, support, encouragement, opportunity and offers space for growth and self-discovery. The Outstanding Mentor Award is an opportunity to recognize individuals at UNC who go above and beyond to mentor women students at UNC. These individuals not only contribute to the success of students with whom they work, they foster an environment in which women have an opportunity to use their voices and see their potential at UNC and beyond.

Nomination forms are available at the Women's Resource Center, the UC, Cultural Centers or on our website: [www.unco.edu/IWA](http://www.unco.edu/IWA)

### VDAY

Be sure to be on the look out for VDAY events happening the week of the 8th - 12th!

### Black History Month

- Feb. 1st: MGCC Open House from 2:00-4:00 pm
- Feb. 3rd: Soul Food Night from 6:00-9:00 pm
- Feb. 5th: Black History Month Film showing: Selma in Columbine B from 7:00 pm-10:00pm
- Feb. 11th: Guest Speaker Hassan Salam: the Socio-political importance of black music in American society  
Collaboration with NAK, BSU, DST, MGCC  
Location TBD at 7:00 pm
- Feb. 15th: Financial Literacy Forum in Harrison Den from 6:30pm
- Feb. 17th: Fish Fry at the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center from 12:00-1:00pm  
Apollo Night at the Fire Side Lounge from 8:00pm- 10:00pm
- Feb. 19th: Night of Soul at the University Center: Panorama Room (3rd Floor) doors open at 7:00 pm
- Feb. 22nd: Organizing at the Intersections of Black Lives Matter & Gender Justice by Joshua Allen  
in University Center: Panorama Room (3rd Floor) at 7:00 pm\*

### Workshop with Joshua Allen\*

Feb. 22, 7pm, UC-Panorama

*Organizing at the Intersections of Black Lives Matter & Gender Justice* will push participants from organizing from a racial justice framework to a full blown liberation movement, this workshop employs an understanding of gender, violence, policing and solidarity to create a more robust organizing practice.

### Contact Us!

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Women's Resource Center



@UNCO\_WRC

You can also find  
our newsletter on  
our website!

# WRC TODAY

## MLK and Beyond

By: Tara Anderson & Tyrell Allen

National Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed the third Monday in January. This year, we were challenged to reflect on the mentors and support figures that influenced Martin Luther King Jr. and worked alongside him to achieve some of the successes for the civil rights movement. Here are some less visible figures who made strides in the long-standing journey to change:



*Pauli Murray (1910-1985)*

- First African-American woman ordained as an Episcopal priest
- Life-long activist for civil and women's rights
- Published a legal study of U.S. segregation laws in 1950, which was later used in Brown v. Board of Education by Thurgood Marshall in 1954

*Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)*

- Openly Gay and Black civil rights organizer and activist
- Mentor and adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. in the 50s and 60s.
- Helped organize the 1963 March on Washington



*Dorothy Height (1912-2010)*

- Coordinated the integration of the YMCA facilities in 1946.
- Served as president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1957 to 1997
- Co-founded the Center for Racial Justice in 1965
- Co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971



It is important to us to also mention that some folks, particularly women, were involved in organizing the infamous March on Washington in 1963, but were asked to march on an adjacent street with the wives of the male leaders. This anecdote further indicates that historical lack of space for folks to exist fully and intersectionally, and reminds us of the work we must continue to do. Read more about these folks and others at <http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/essayworks/77522-the-invisible-women-of-the-civil-rights-movement>, and watch the documentary on the life of Bayard Rustin, Brother Outsider.

## CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING LUNCHEONS

Come and join the Women's Resource Center all semester long for our Consciousness Raising Luncheons!  
There will be free food provided, but this is only while food lasts so be sure to come early!

Luncheons from **12 PM-1:30 PM:**

**January 27** February 23 **March 30** April 26

**Feminism  
Because...**  
UNC

This semester, the Women's Resource Center is proud to launch the *Student Voices* section of the newsletter. We will use this space to feature the written work of various students in the UNC community.

Are you interested in writing a piece and submitting it to be in our newsletter? Please contact the Women's Resource Center at 970-351-1492 for more information or contact Emily Hedstrom-Lieser at [emily.hedstromlieser@unco.edu](mailto:emily.hedstromlieser@unco.edu)

### "I am a Guardian"

By: G.N. Riley

I mold myself to my gender every morning; going through the day, I am not much different than the guy next to me. I walk high with chest out, shoulders down, chin up, eyes ahead. When a beautiful woman crosses my path my muscles flex. My friends have labeled my gait as a 'big d\*\*\* walk.' I feel like one tough guy who has no fear of defending my alpha-male position. I am a guardian of my pack, those who are close to me. Throughout my day I retain the identity of a man until someone addresses me as a "ma'am". At that point my whole body and mind ache. The rest of my day passes in second-guessing my every movement, the tone and pitch of my voice. My carriage falls and my vision locks on the ground. At the end of the day I stand in my room and shed the second constricting skin that liberated me earlier in the day.

Being a trans-man is physically, mentally and emotionally difficult. I strap the tumors resting on my chest so that I can be what is considered a "real" man. Even going to the bathroom is hard. Like for many trans people I fear being beaten and possibly being left in a stall to die. Or maybe I'm just over exaggerating like they say. The worst part of my life right now wants to tell those closest to me about my true identity. But I don't want to completely crush my mother's soul and take my father's pride in being the only brother with a daughter. Even then, I want the ability to walk around my apartment with only my boxer-briefs, or to grow a beard like my brother. I need to hear my right pronouns. I yearn to hear the true pronouns.

So what is Gender? When I think about it, as a non-cisgender person I think of the struggles that have become my life. In ancient times transgendered persons were considered gods among the people sent to guide humanity. Today, people are murdered daily just because their gender does not match their sex and this number doubles for trans-women of color. Even then, I remain hopeful. Today, I share my story as a step towards my struggle for accepting all genders as the best of humanity.



**About G.N. Riley:** He is an English major History minor from Aurora Colorado. Riley is an advocate of the GLBTA Community on and off campus.

### I need feminism because

By: Sarah Olivia

As I know better now, I say with confidence that I need feminism. In my twenty years on earth I did not know what feminism truly meant. Before college I always thought being a feminist was a bad thing. Every time feminism was mentioned, it was always in a negative way. Feminists, to me, from what I had heard, were women who hated men and everything associated with men. Bra burning, angry, white women, was the image I had.

Now as my horizons have broadened and I have learn more about feminism as a movement, its history and progress I can say that feminism is for everyone who stands for gender equality; black, white, straight, gay man, woman, and every person in between.

Feminism has also taught me that women are not the only gender being oppressed. Men have so many standards that they feel they need to live up to, and which are equally oppressive. It hurts me to think that my brothers and all men I know feel the burden of these standards we have created. This realization has completely affected how I now see things. Men should not have to limit their feelings to something more acceptable for them just because society deems it wrong. Take the trivial example of crying; it is considered unmanly if men cry. Why? Why do we have stereotypes that suppress our humanity and emotions? Should men not be able to express emotions?

It is here that feminism as the movement, which wants to end oppression of all genders makes sense. Feminism as the movement stands now wants to end sexism and exploitation against all genders. It is only ignorance about feminism that breeds more misunderstanding and people refrain from calling themselves feminists. If you believe in gender equality, you by default are a feminist.

Feminism has many goals, and many faces. We all need feminism to make our society accepting and welcoming without limiting us solely on social constructs placed on genders.



**About Sarah Olivia:** She is a Junior who loves reading and making fun of movies. She likes to play video games and do knitting. She says one can only knit so many scarves.

Consulting Editor: Dr. Ather Zia, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology.