

## UCSD Women's Center: 2001-2002 Annual Report

"The Women's Center is an oasis for our campus and wider community of sanity, friendship, and learning. Thanks for being there for all of us." Faculty Member

The Women's Center celebrated our fifth birthday October 15, 2001. We have come a long way in the past five years. From a small unit in 1997, which boasted a Director and a temporary office assistant, and which offered small workshops on gender issues, we have increasingly become an integral part of the larger campus climate. We now work with many different campus units each year in a coordinated effort to provide programming that enriches the educational climate for hundreds of people a year.

"The Women's Center provides a venue for discussion of serious issues that is nowhere else available on the UCSD campus." Faculty Member

One of the largest focuses for the Center continues to be developing and facilitating programs. In the last few years, consistent with our mission and the direction of our board, we have striven to provide larger and more academic programming that will draw graduate students, faculty, and the community as well as students and staff. We are proud this past year to have brought Jackson Katz and Ninotchka Rosca to campus to examine issues of masculinity and of women in the global economy, and to have helped co-sponsor the first Critical Gender Studies Regents lecturer, filmmaker Nilita Vachani. Following 9-11, we developed a mini-symposium on Women and War, focusing on issues for Afghan women, that brought together UCSD students, faculty, and the community to discuss historical and current aspects of one of the most important issues of our time.

Following UCSD's commitment to public service and outreach, we have also become more involved with the San Diego Community, and have created programs that bring UCSD and the community together several times a year to discuss gender issues and to celebrate San Diego women. This past year for International Women's Day we worked with the San Diego Iranian Women's Study Group to sponsor a film screening along with a lecture by Iranian human rights activist Mehrangiz Kar, which brought 200 people from the local Iranian community from as far away as Los Angeles and Orange County. We also helped develop the first annual San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame, co-sponsored with the San Diego Women's History Reclamation Project, the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, and San Diego State's Women's Studies Program. Over 300 people attended the event at the Institute of the Americas to honor the first five inductees. The event was welcomed by Senior Vice Chancellor Marsha Chandler.

One spectacular example of our emphasis on enhanced programs and services that deserves special recognition this year is our donation drives. Last year our drives were a large part of our services and outreach. As one example, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month last October we held a donation drive to collect business clothing for Dress for Success San Diego. This non-profit organization, a chapter of the National Dress for Success, was started by a woman survivor of domestic violence. Her organization provides business attire to low-income women for job interviews and then again when they land a position. One of the main factors hindering women in their new job search can be a lack of self-confidence. Access to the proper attire, combined with personal support and coaching, can make women feel more confident about entering the work world. We had a tremendous response from UCSD and the San Diego community for this donation drive, including participation from other local campuses such as the University of San Diego. The notice of our drive spread from UCSD to family and friends

throughout California, and we received packages of clothing and accessories sent from cities outside San Diego. In all we collected over 1570 pieces of clothing and accessories. This is a remarkable outpouring from the campus and shows how we can bring UCSD resources to those in need. Even months later, we are still receiving donations of clothing through word of mouth.

“The events put on by the women's center in association with WISE have really helped me as I've tried to decide on a career. I often share words of wisdom from speakers like Donna Dean, the acting director of NIBIB, to encourage friends who are trying to make career decisions. It's great to hear from other women who have struggled and succeeded!”

In addition to these special programs, we continued to work with WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), and to develop programs for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Take Our Daughters to Work Day, and we continued to co-sponsor Take Back the Night and the Vagina Monologues. We strove to take these annual efforts in new directions. For instance, this past year a planning committee composed of UCSD staff, UCSD Making Strides, was formed to help organize a UCSD team for the annual American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, held October 21, 2001. This was a very successful collaborative effort and resulted in the largest UCSD team to ever walk in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, including a team of students from Revelle College.

“When I was a student on campus and came to the Women's Center library it meant a lot to me to find out how women of color had contributed to U.S. History. I learned about a history in which I was included.” Former UCSD student, now a staff member.

This year we created an important new service for the campus through placing our library holdings on line. Students, staff, and faculty can click on the site and search for our library holdings by keyword, title, author, location, subject, etc. They can also search for specific subcategories, such as eldercare, adoption, or breastfeeding, and can search by multiple subjects, such as African American and U.S. History, or Children and Divorce, to find the particular books that best meet their needs. We feel this is an important tool that provides a powerful and assessable resource to students and staff who might be searching for a convenient and user-friendly way to access information on gender-related issues. This increased search capacity has already increased our number of library users, and has enhanced our capacity to provide specialized information and referral to the campus community.

We continue to provide training support to the university and to provide public service on gender-related issues to the larger San Diego community. Our Assistant Director, Emelyn dela Pena, is crucial in this regard with her expertise and knowledge of issues relating to violence against women. Emelyn participated in several well-received community trainings this past year.

“The resources and knowledge you provided our group will empower us and will allow us to better assist with our volunteer duties at the WRC; this will also help us with our personal plights . . . on taking steps (however small they may be) to transform our rape culture.” Participant in Assistant Director Emelyn dela Pena's Rape Culture Presentation at the Oceanside Women's Resource Center

One other major change in the last year is our move under the Chancellor's Office in February 2002, along with the Cross Cultural Center and the LGBT Resource Office. Now that the Chancellor's Office provides a resource for ten gender and diversity-related campus units, we hope to be able to provide even stronger and more consolidated services to the campus community in the future.

In the next year we will continue to focus on larger academic programming and major speakers. We will be helping to bring Barbara Ehrenreich and Kathleen Cleaver to campus in Fall Quarter

2002, in conjunction with the Helen Edison lecture series and with Ethnic Studies. For the first time we will be involved with the Flame of Life community event in October 2002 in Encinitas, which raises funds toward domestic violence educational programs. Following the success of the photo-exhibit "Winged Victory" last October, we hope to collaborate again with physician and photographer Art Myers to host the exhibit "Women First and the Children of Nyumbani," which features photos of women from the United States and of children from the Nyumbani orphanage in Kenya who have been diagnosed with the HIV virus. This exhibit premiered at the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) last spring. We will continue to develop the second annual San Diego Women's Hall of Fame, to be held March 22, 2003 at the Price Center. In these ways we will continue to bring together the UCSD campus and the larger community in which it is embedded. In addition, supported by the Chancellor's Office, we will be developing a strategic plan this year to assess where we have been in the past five years, to explore the current gender-related needs on campus, and to craft a vision that will take us through the next five years and beyond. We are excited by this change and encourage any input by individuals and departments about our mission, programs, and services.

We would not have been able to become what we have without the support of many individuals, groups, departments, and other campus units who have supported us and worked with us over the years. We thank you for your support in our first five years, and we look forward to working with the campus community even more in the next five, to make a most successful first decade!

## Appendix I: Programming Summary:

Included below are some programming highlights from 2001-02. A complete table of programs is available in Appendix V:



**“Winged Victory: Altered Images, Transcending Breast Cancer.”** In honor of Breast Health Awareness Month in October the Women’s Center hosted an exhibit by local physician and photographer Art Myer. Having experienced breast cancer in his family, he saw the disease in a new light and undertook his project to show that for a woman, the loss of part or all of her breast need not be a threat to her being. The women pictured in the exhibit present their bodies and themselves with humor, sadness, vulnerability and honesty. Dr. Myers did a signing of his 1996 book based on the photographs. This was also the first year that a UCSD committee was formed, Making Strides UCSD, to publicize attendance at the

American Cancer Society’s annual walk “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.” Because of the organized effort of this group, this year we had the highest group attendance from the UCSD team, going from 6-8 participants the year before to more than 70 students, staff, and faculty this past year, including a contingent of students from Revelle College.

“I went to the Women’s Center for a lunch reception for the new Sixth College Provost. It was my first visit to the Center. As interesting as that event was, what . . . stopped me in my tracks were the black and white photographs of women who had undergone mastectomy and were willing to be photographed without their clothes, in their beauty and pride, often with their partners.

I cannot imagine another venue anywhere where these images could have been exhibited so effectively. The Women’s Center is private: many women could be comfortable viewing the show alone and silently replace private fears with visual information about mastectomy. At the same time, as a public exhibition it . . . prompted people to communicate their reactions and their experiences with each other.

The excellence of the photography encouraged a response of courage and strength, instead of fear and shame. What a gift for all those who were able to see the show!”

### **Women’s Center Birthday Celebration**

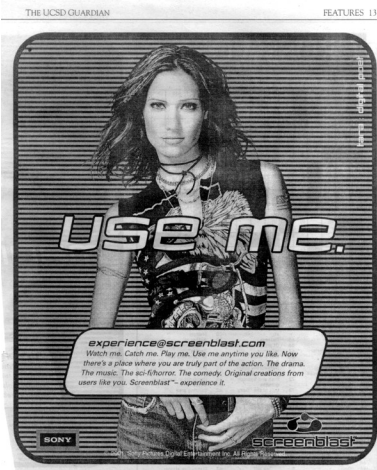
For our fifth birthday the Women’s Center held a barbecue on the ERC Green. Approximately 150 students and staff attended the celebration.

### **Dress for Success, Medico, and Food Donation Drives**

This year we collected over 1570 items of women’s business clothing and accessories for “Dress for Success,” which provides business clothing, support, and training for low-income women entering or re-entering the workforce.. We also collected several boxes of used eye-glasses and toiletries for MEDICO (Medical, Eye, and Dental International Care Organization), which provides medical care and educational services to impoverished people in Latin America. People are still donating cell phones to the Women’s Center over a year and a half after our initial cell phone drive for victims of domestic violence. The Women’s Center also hosted a Thanksgiving/Holiday food donation drive for the Oceanside Women’s Resource Center. In part by making it convenient for staff to donate close to their workplaces, we received a generous response from the UCSD community, in both food and cash donations and gift certificates, which brightened the lives of women and children in need.



Packing up the many boxes of donated items for Dress for Success



### “Selling Us Short: Popular Media, Gender, and Violence Towards Women”

In fall quarter 2001 a series of Sony Ads appeared in the Guardian and on campus which prompted student complaints to the Women’s Center and a letter to the Guardian. The ads featured women (and one man) with slogans such as “Use Me,” “Manipulate Me,” “Share Me,” and “Enter Me” plastered across their chests. The initial ads appeared across from a Guardian article on pornography and its relation to women. In response to concerns about these ads, the Women’s Center organized a slide presentation and discussion “Selling Us Short: Popular Media, Gender, and Violence Towards Women,” with Gillian Greensite, Director of Rape Prevention Education at UC Santa Cruz.

### Luncheon with Professor Gabriele Wienhausen

In November, WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) sponsored a luncheon and presentation with Professor Wienhausen, founding provost of Sixth College. In this presentation Prof. Wienhausen spoke of the founding vision of Sixth College and about how innovative uses of technology can transform students’ lives—and their relation to faculty and to the local community--to produce a more interactive and engaged educational climate. This was one of five programs that the Women’s Center helped facilitate for WISE in 2001-02, including a visit by Donna Dean from NIH.

Photo from Jalozai Refugee Camp Exhibit



**Women, War, and Afghanistan.** The Women’s Center developed a day-long mini-symposium to discuss gender issues in the wake of 9/11. The focus of the discussion included an exploration of issues of women and war and current issues for Afghan women. The events included a photo exhibit of Jalozai Refugee Camp (“View from a Grain of Sand: Lives of Afghan Refugees”) from the Afghan Women’s

Mission, a lunch, two speakers’ panels, moderated by Professor Rosemary George, director of Critical Gender Studies, and a donation drive to benefit Afghan women and children. The event was well attended by UCSD students, staff, faculty, and the community, filling the Women’s Center living room. We have also added library books on Afghan women to help student research.

**Film Series on Gender, Nation and Sexuality.** The Women's Center continued its popular series on film screenings and cultural analysis, inaugurated in '99-'00, and co-sponsored with Critical Gender Studies. This past year we discussed *Happy Together* and *Girlfight*. The series continues to be well attended, with an average of 25-30 undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and sometimes community attending each screening and staying well into the night for discussion afterward.

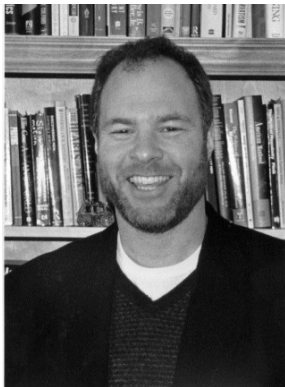
**The Vagina Monologues.** After two very successful years at UCSD, Eve Ensler's play, *The Vagina Monologues*, was produced for a third time in February 2001 by a student troupe with three sold-out shows with an attendance of almost 1500 people, raising almost \$6,000 for the Center for Community Solutions. The students also tabled on library walk with information on the play, health resources, and violence against women. The Women's Center staff played an integral part in providing support for the student productions. This program has generated a lot of energy and passion among women undergraduate students, and we are proud of our role in helping them achieve their vision.

**Infant/Child First Aid & CPR, and Legal Clinic:** We continued our popular Pediatric CPR/First Aid and Legal Clinics. There was so much interest in the Pediatric First Aid Class that a second class was scheduled. These continue to be popular and successful programs. Their main constituency is staff, although students and faculty do attend.

My friend and I took the Women's Center's infant CPR class, which was just what we needed! We used to constantly panic about what to do if our babies choked. Now, though we still worry about choking and other disasters, at least we know what to do!" Graduate Student

**Take Your Daughter to Work Day.** This was the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Take our Daughters to Work Day and the fourth time that the Women's Center has sponsored this event. Over 100 parents and children attended the day's events. For a summary and pictures see Appendix IV.

**Major Speaker Series.** This year the Women's Center was able to bring several major speakers to campus with the help of co-sponsorship from other departments.



**Jackson Katz**, a leading U.S. anti-sexist male activist, gave a lecture titled "More Than a Few Good Men" on American manhood and violence against women. Katz is widely recognized for his work in the field of gender violence prevention education with men and boys, particularly in the sports culture and the military. The Center also screened his video *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*. Jackson Katz's visit was part of Take Back the Night 2002.

**Ninotchka Rosca**, one of the Philippines' pre-eminent novelists, author of five books, and recipient of the 1993 American Book Award, gave a talk on "Globalization and the Export of Women." A political prisoner under the Marcos regime, Rosca was the founding chair of GABRIELA Network, a Philippine-U.S. women's solidarity organization.





### **Mehrangiz Kar**

In March, for International Women's Day, the Women's Center worked with the San Diego Iranian Women's Study Group to screen the film *Runaway* and to host a lecture by visiting Iranian activist Mehrangiz Kar. Ms. Kar is an Iranian human rights lawyer, writer, and essayist. Kar was arrested in April 2000 and held for two months on charges of acting against national security and disseminating propaganda against the Islamic regime. She was among 19 prominent Iranian writers and intellectuals who were tried for participating in a now infamous conference held in Berlin in April 2000 on "Iran after the elections." 200 people attended the event, with some coming from as far away as Los Angeles and Orange County. Afterward, Ms. Kar was presented by a cloth banner signed with the well wishes of those attending the program.

**Academic Speakers: Lee Badgett**, professor of economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst spoke on "The Myth of Gay Affluence and other Tall Tales: The Political Economy of Sexual Orientation." She also did a booksigning of her book *Money, Myths, and Change: The Economic Lives of Lesbians and Gay Men*. Prof. Badgett is the research director and co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. The students and faculty who attended engaged in a spirited discussion with Professor Badgett on the implications of her research

**Induction Ceremony for the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame.** The Women's Center co-sponsored the first annual Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony March 23 at the Institute of the Americas, along with the San Diego Women's History Reclamation Project, the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, and SDSU Women's Studies.. Women were honored for their contributions to improving the lives of women in San Diego County. For a summary of the event and descriptions of the inductees see Appendix III.

**The Safe Child Panel Discussion and Community Forum.** To address concerns of parents, children, and the community in light of the Danielle Van Dam tragedy, the Women's Center hosted a forum to discuss child safety, child abduction and sexual abuse. Speakers included:

- **Jennifer Donnelly, Director of Communications, The Polly Klaas Foundation.** The Polly Klaas® Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public on the prevention of child abduction, aiding in the search for missing children, and on bringing the issue of missing children to the forefront.
- **Stephen Daley, Executive Director, radKIDS, Inc.** radKIDS Inc. is a leading educator in personal safety training for children and parents.
- **Jerold Phelps, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, UCSD School of Medicine, and Counseling Psychologist, UCSD Psychological and Counseling Services.**
- **Representative, San Diego Police Department.**

This program resulted in an important new partnership between the Polly Klaas Foundation and radKIDS, Inc. Since their meeting at the event a new partnership has been formed in Sacramento County -- "Striking Back"— which aims to combine the forces of the two organizations to break the cycle of violence. Stephen Daley will be traveling to Sacramento in mid-September 2002 to train 24 new radKIDS instructors selected from Sacramento County parents and community

leaders.



In conjunction with The Safe Child Forum, the Women's Center co-sponsored two cross-campus radKIDS classes with the San Diego State University Police Department. One radKIDS class for children 5-7 years old was held at SDSU and one class for children 8-10 years old was held at UCSD. The photo shows the class at SDSU.



**Regents Lecturer Nilita Vachani** The Women's Center helped co-sponsor the first Critical Gender Studies Regents lecturer -- Nilita Vachani, an anthropologist and feminist filmmaker. Vachani screened two films, *When Mother Comes Home for Christmas*, which follows a Sri Lankan woman in Greece who works caring for a child who goes home for Christmas after eight years. The documentary movingly explores the effects of the global domestic labor market. For a graduate filmmaking seminar, Vachani also screened *Eyes of Stone*, which explores the gender and family implications of spirit possession among rural women in India.