

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Dear Bowdoin College Community,

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Women's Resource Center (WRC) offered opportunities for students, staff, and faculty to engage with gender issues that directly impact campus and society. Working both independently and collaboratively with other departments, the WRC presented numerous programs and events.

The WRC introduced a month-long inaugural series titled "HerStory" centered on issues that affect a range of women. Throughout the month, the WRC collaborated with an alum, Kaylee Wolfe '15, to demystify birth control; hosted a reception in the LaMarche Gallery, "Beauty in Color," to foster conversations around women of color (WOC) feeling beautiful in predominantly white spaces; invited community organizations to discuss reproductive justice on a panel; screened "Girl Rising"; collaborated with Director of Gender Violence Prevention and Education Benje Douglas to discuss and problematize the popular Shades of Gray series; invited diverse faculty and staff to discuss their so-called work life balance; and collaborated with History Professor Hecht to discuss women's rights and the constitution with Government and Legal Studies Professor Sorenson.

The WRC also offered programs specifically for women of color, and organized two WOC retreats, one at the Coastal Studies Center and a second in the yoga studio that focused on beauty and self-confidence. Additionally, new this year, a senior offered a three-part natural hair care series.

Other highlights include:

- Partnering with Counseling Services to organize and co-lead a support group for survivors of sexual assault
- A facilitated lunch for students, staff, and faculty to discuss healthy relationships
- An all-women student sex panel that focused on empowerment and consent
- In collaboration with Theater and Dance Professor Killeen, a facilitated discussion focused on women in the Bible, called Christianity and Feminism
- A Portland + Yoga event took first years off campus to practice yoga and eat pizza in the city

Traditional WRC programs, such as swimming lessons for women and the Bowdoin Women's Association bi-weekly discussion group continued to serve a diverse population of women. The WRC also continued to partner with the Bowdoin Outing Club for the Wild Women Adventure Series which offered a trip to Katahdin, a four-program winter series and a three-program spring series. The Interim Coordinator served on the ThInk Collective.

Best,

Stephanie Rendall, Interim Coordinator
Women's Resource Center