

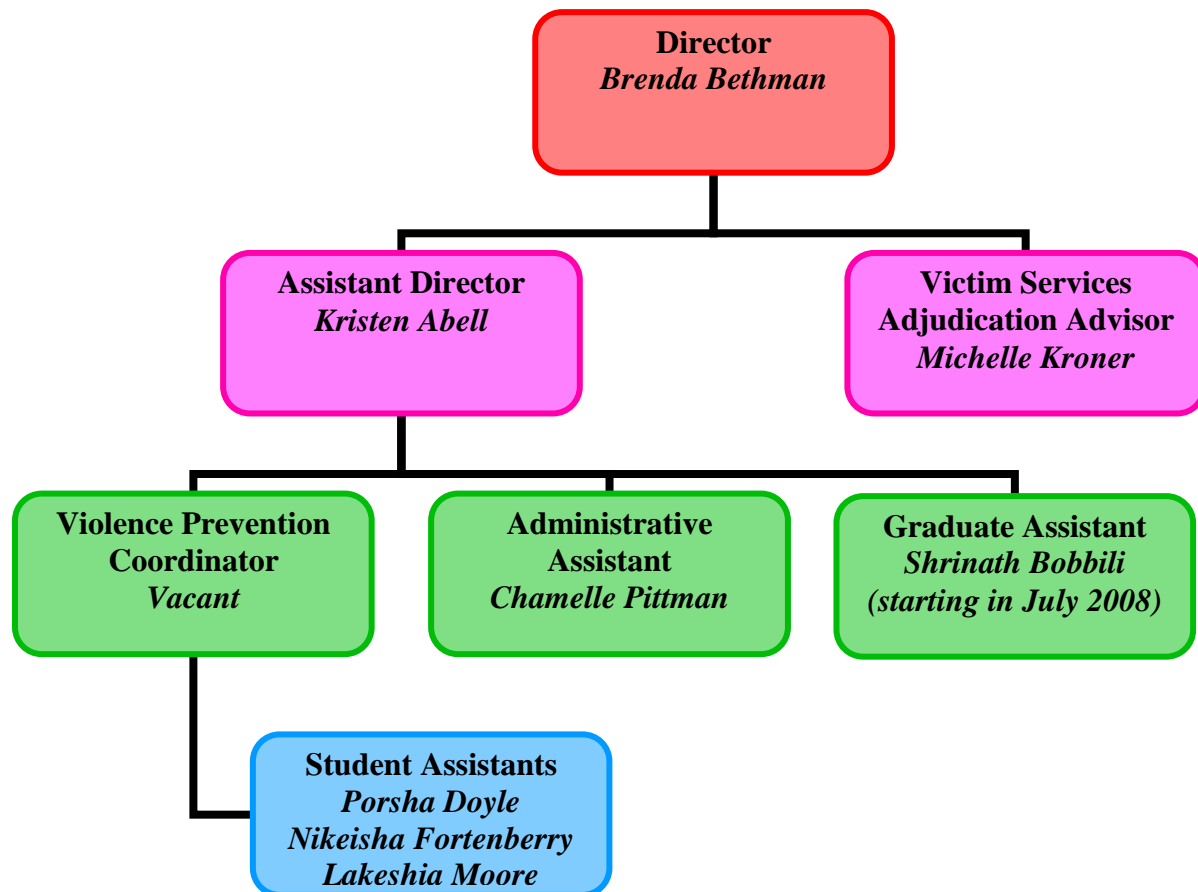


**Annual Report to the Chancellor
Women's Center
University of Missouri-Kansas City
June 3, 2008**

Chancellor Bailey, on behalf of Janet Justus, Chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Board to the Women's Center, it is my pleasure to summarize the activities of the Women's Center and the role of the Chancellor's Advisory Board to the Women's Center. Completing its 36th year serving students, staff, faculty, and the Kansas City community, the Women's Center and your Advisory Board have witnessed a year of exciting programming and collaboration both within the university and with the Kansas City Community. I will briefly summarize the accomplishments of the Women's Center in 2007-08 and will then give an update on our strategic plan and focus for the coming year.

Staffing

With the support of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, the Women's Center is able to maintain a strong staff of three full-time, two part-time, and six student staff. Below is an organizational chart showing our current staff members, many of whom are with us this morning:



VAWA Grant

The 2005 Department of Justice VAWA grant officially concluded in the fall of 2007. After receiving an extension through January of 2008, the Violence Prevention and Response Project was able to continue its initial efforts at educating the UMKC community on issues of sexual and relationship violence, including prevention and response. In October 2007, the Project gained some major recognition with its Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Following on this program, several other educational programs were presented to the UMKC and Kansas City communities, including a nationally recognized program, Sex Signals. Although some of the original goals of the grant were difficult to reach in light of staffing issues, the Violence Prevention and Response Project made some major headway in developing important relationships across campus and educating first-tier responders. In addition, with this grant, the VPR Project was able to produce and purchase a number of educational materials that will assist in continuing to spread information and support across campus.

In September of 2007, the Women's Center learned that it had been awarded a continuation grant in the amount of \$286,647 from the Department of Justice. Efforts to meet the goals outlined in this grant are well on their way. An additional half-time position, the Victim Services Adjudication Advisor, was added with this grant, and that position has been filled. An educational video has been produced by film students in the Department of Communications to provide UMKC students with information about sexual assault and resources. In addition, work has begun on establishing a mandatory sexual assault education program for all incoming students. In collaboration with the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA), the VPR project is helping to set up a system-wide training on sexual assault policies and judicial procedures to take place at the end of June.

Programs and Events

The Women's Center hosted twelve events in the Fall 2007 semester and nineteen in Spring 2008. Attendance at all events totaled 1,749 people, of whom 985 were students. Programming highlights included:

- In October, we observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month by hosting the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event. This event asks men to walk a mile in women's high-heeled shoes. Walking in women's shoes helps men better understand and appreciate women's experiences, thus changing perspectives, helping improve gender relationships and decreasing the potential for violence. This event not only raised awareness, but also brought the Center good publicity, helping to raise our profile.
- Also in October, the Center hosted a lecture and workshop by visiting speaker Courtney Martin. Her workshop and lecture focused on the connections between perfectionism and eating disorders.
- Our benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* not only delighted audiences for three nights in February, but also raised \$2,700 for organizations that fight violence against women and girls. This year's local beneficiaries were the Rose Brooks Center and the UMKC Violence Prevention and Response Project.
- The 2008 Starr Symposium, "What a Girl Wants? Packaging Girlhood," featuring Lyn Mikel Brown, a noted girls' studies scholar, was held on March 6, 2008. This year's chair from the Women's Center was Kristin Webster, who was ably assisted by Andrea Spears

of the Women's Council as co-chair. I also thank Board members Janet Justus, Tara Kloeppel, and Sarah Morris for serving on the Starr committee. The event was a huge success, and the largest ever with 530 reservations and 450 attending. Participants to the evening lecture received a free copy of Brown's most recent book, *Packaging Girlhood*. We also held an afternoon workshop for professionals who work with girls, which was well attended and received.

- In April, we collaborated with the UMKC and Rockhurst University Career Services offices to host speaker Hannah Seligson. Hannah spoke about her book *New Girl on the Job: Advice from the Trenches*. Her advice was well received by the new girls (and boys!) in the audience.
- Our Take Back the Night Rally and March, held in April, was the biggest ever with approximately 175 participants.

Young Women Leaders Program

Modeled on the founding Program at the University of Virginia, this is a year-long mentoring program that focuses on promoting middle school girls' leadership abilities by combining the benefits of one-on-one mentoring with targeted group activities for a year. During the year, each middle-school girl is paired with a college woman—her “Big Sister”—with whom she meets twice weekly to address issues related to girls' sense of self, scholastic achievement, body image, social aggression, and healthy decision-making. During the 2007-08 Academic Year, seven UMKC Big Sisters worked with fourteen Little Sisters from the Kansas City Middle School for the Arts. We are currently looking into moving the Program to the Early College High School beginning in spring 2009.

Below are some quotes from YWLP participants:

- Big Sisters:
 - *“I feel that both of my sisters benefited from the program. They got better at resolving conflicts and communicating with one another.”*
 - *“This was a great experience because I learned a lot about young adolescents which will help in my career. Of course, the relationships I developed were the most valuable part.”*
 - *“The program made you able to work well with others and communicate more efficiently.”*
- Little Sisters:
 - *“The most valuable part of the program for me was that now I have more control over the mean things that I say.”*
 - *“The most valuable mentoring experience was getting to know new people and spending time with them.”*
 - *“I liked being in the group because there are girls to help me with any kind of problems.”*

Publications and Website

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Women's Center made great strides in streamlining its publications and providing a more consistent overall look. With the help of UMKC's Creative Services, all major publications featured the same overall design, creating a type of branding for our office. In addition, updates were continually made to the website to keep it current and

useful. Resource pages were added (and/or updated) to better support both students and community members. Calendars for Women's Center, campus, and community events of interest to our constituents were also maintained throughout the year. These pages, along with the listserv, were reformatted to provide a more consistent and cleaner look. As the Women's Center moves to more online programming, the website will continue to be updated and improved to make it more visually appealing and user-friendly. A printout of our new listserv template is attached and the website can be viewed at www.umkc.edu/womenc.

Strategic Plan Updates

Last year I reported that the Advisory Board and I had developed a one-year strategic plan for the Center. As we began to implement the plan, however, we realized that it would take longer than one year to achieve the goals outlined in the plan. The Women's Center staff worked to develop action items for the plan's six strategic goals and we have made much progress this year. Attached is a copy of the plan that includes the action items with their current status.

As part of this process, we will also be looking at focusing more on new ways to deliver programming and how to more effectively utilize electronic communication. While our larger events and anti-violence programming were very well attended, many of our smaller events attracted few people. Over the coming year, we plan to hold fewer events and will use the staff time freed up to conduct assessment and focus groups; the information obtained through these processes will help us inform the future programming and direction of the Women's Center. We will also use this information to help determine the goals of our next strategic plan, which we will begin writing next year as we anticipate meeting the goals of the current plan during the upcoming year.

Conclusion

The academic year 2007-08 has been an incredible success, as evidenced by the numbers:

- The Center was awarded \$286,647 by the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women for the UMKC Violence Prevention and Response Project (three-year grant);
- We also received an additional \$34,000 in grant funding, gifts, program co-sponsorships, and fundraising/sales
- Our total grant/gift/sponsorship/fundraising income for FY 2008 was \$129,549, which is approximately 40% of the Women's Center annual expenses.
- We reached a total of 7,405 people through the following methods:
 - Attendance at Women's Center Programs = 1,749
 - Number reached at Admissions/Recruitment Events (Orientations, Visit Days, African-American/Hispanic Youth Days, etc.) = 3,298
 - Number reached at non-Women's Center Events = 1,713
 - Number trained by Women's Center Staff = 121
 - Office walk-ins = 524
- We reached 5,474 incoming students through our violence prevention programs.
- The Women's Center website received 1,680 hits since January 31, 2008, which is an average of 108 hits per week.
- We partnered with over 40 campus and community departments and organization to provide quality programs and services to the UMKC and Kansas City communities.

Women's Center Collaborations in the 2007-08 Academic Year

UMKC Departments and Organizations

- The Activity and Programs Council
- African American History and Culture House
- Athletics
- Bloch School of Business
- Career Services
- Communications Department
- Counseling, Health, and Testing
- Division of Diversity, Access and Equity
- Greek Life
- LGBT Programs
- Multicultural Student Affairs
- Police Department
- Residential Life
- Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Student Health and Wellness
- Student Life
- Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life
- Women's and Gender Studies
- Women's Council

Community Organizations

- American Association of University Women
- The At Home Dads' Convention
- The Coffee Break
- Full Employment Council
- Global and Multicultural Education Center
- Guadalupe Centers, Inc.
- Human Rights Campaign
- Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
- Kansas City Healthy Start
- Kansas City Middle School for the Arts
- Kansas City Public Library
- Liberty High School Alliance
- Linda Hall Library
- Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)
- Missouri Department of Social Services Family Services Division
- Newhouse Shelter
- Planned Parenthood
- Primerica
- PROMO
- Rockhurst University Career Services

- Rockhurst University Student Life Office
- Rose Brooks Center
- Synergy Services
- YWCA of Greater Kansas City