



University of Idaho

Women's Center

50th Anniversary

Programs and Activities Report August 2022 to April 2023

The University of Idaho Women's Center was founded in Fall 1972 and opened its doors sometime in the last week of October that year. From its humble beginnings in Admin 104A, staffed entirely by volunteers, to its current location in Memorial Gym 109, with 4 full-time staff and 6 student staff, the Women's Center has long played a critical role in the health and vibrancy of the university. We are one of the longest-running, continuously operated campus-based women's centers in the United States! In 2012, Gloria Steinem, the keynote speaker for the center's 40th anniversary celebrations, said we are "one of the most important women's centers in the nation." To celebrate 50 years of serving our campus and local community, we assembled a committee of friends and allies to plan an extraordinary series of programs, events, and initiatives to both honor the legacy of those who came before us, and to inspire generations of future gender justice activists. This report provides a brief summary of the year's celebrations honoring the important work of generations of feminist activists and community organizers.

50th Anniversary Planning Committee Members:

- Aarika Dobbins, Management Assistant, College of Engineering
 - Beth Ropski, Academic Advisor & Retention Specialist, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
 - Denessy Rodriguez, Program Coordinator, Office of Multicultural Affairs
 - Dulce Kersting-Lark, Head of Special Collections & Archives, U of I Libraries
 - Liddy Kang, Administrative Coordinator, Movement Sciences
 - Eric Anderson, Interim Director, Career Services
 - Erin Chapman, Clinical Associate Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences
 - Jane Pritchett, former JAMM faculty (retired) and longtime friend of the Women's Center
 - Jeana Moody, Program Coordinator, Women's Center
 - Jeanette Orozco, Retention Specialist, Office of Multicultural Affairs & CAMP
 - Julia Ames, Communications Specialist, Office of Technology Transfer
 - Katie Hettinga, ASUI Vice President
 - Kay Keskinen, former ITS staff member (retired) and longtime friend of the Women's Center
 - KT Turner, doctoral student in History and Women's Center 50th Anniversary intern
 - Lysa Salisbury, Director, Women's Center
 - Maureen Taylor Regan, former Associate Director of Athletics and longtime friend of the Women's Center
 - Nancy Nydegger, Owner of Just Trade and longtime friend of the Women's Center
 - Omni Francetich, Office Manager, Women's Center
 - Rachel Norris, OVW Grant Project Director, Women's Center
 - Robert Perret, Library Faculty
 - Sean McIlraith, Administrative Coordinator, Athletics
 - Yolanda Bisbee, Chief Diversity Officer & Executive Director of Tribal Relations
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Programs and Events

AUGUST 2022

- **Saturday, August 6 - Launch of *DismantALE the Patriarchy* beer**
The official release of *DismantALE the Patriarchy*, a commemorative golden ale specially commissioned from the Micropolis Brewing Company to celebrate the Women's Center's 50 years of working for gender equity on campus and in the community. The launch party was held at the Moscow Brewing Co. and over 250 people showed up for the event! The beer was sold at several local businesses from August - December 2022, and a percentage of the purchase price was donated to the Women's Center.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- **Monday, September 26 to Friday, October 7 - A Timeline of Women's History display**
For two weeks, the ISUB Rotunda hosted a timeline display of original student artwork illustrating the contributions of Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color to the women's rights movement. The winning artists (by People's Choice ballots from over 200 votes cast) were:
 - Jada Ponce, "Una Mujer Valiente" (\$300 prize)
 - Zoey Wonenberg, "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" (\$200 prize)
 - Juliana Nelson, "Chisholm's Run" (\$100 prize)
- **Thursday, September 15 - Feminist Trivia Night**
An evening of feminist trivia featuring questions on feminism, Women's Center history, women in sports, and women in history. The event was held in partnership with Mikey's Gyros on Main Street and Micropolis Brewing Co. and raised \$600 for our 50th anniversary celebrations.
- **Wednesday, September 28 - "A Retrospective of Women's Center Leadership"**
A Zoom webinar attended by 30 registrants featuring a panel of past and present University of Idaho Women's Center directors sharing memories and insights relating to the major concerns and events of their term. Panelists reflected on how their vision helped shape the center's focus during their tenure and discussed the important initiatives they promoted. Panelists included: Heather Shea (2008-2013), Jeannie Harvey (1999-2002 and 2004-2007), Valerie Russo (1997-1998), Alayne Pettyjohn (1979-1985), Donna Holt (1978-1979) and Jane Langenes (1972-1973). Lysa Salsbury (2013-present) moderated the panel. The webinar was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

OCTOBER 2022

- **Wednesday, October 5 - Keynote Speaker, Ijeoma Oluo: "Why We Should Be Talking About Race"**
Ijeoma Oluo, best-selling writer and speaker, author of *So You Want to Talk About Race*, visited the University of Idaho campus to meet students and deliver the keynote address for the 50th anniversary celebrations:
 - Student lunch time meet-and-greet (attended by 50 students)
 - Pre-keynote reception (attended by approximately 50 friends of the Women's Center)
 - Keynote address (attended by approximately 700 faculty, staff, students and community members)The talk was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.
- **Wednesday, October 19 - "A History of LGBTQ Programs at the University of Idaho"**
A Zoom webinar attended by about 20 registrants featuring a panel of former and current directors and previous interns and work-study students of the LGBTQA Office reflecting on the origins of the office in the Women's Center, challenges and triumphs, and future directions. Panelists included: Rebecca Rod (2005-2011), Heather Ebba Maib (2011-2012), Julia Keleher (20120-present), Julien Arias (former student staff member), and Mandy Strey (former constituent). Flick Kemp, a current student, moderated the panel. The webinar was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

NOVEMBER 2022

- **Tuesday, November 1 - "The Women's Center: Looking Back at 50 Years of Advocacy and Service"**
As part of the 2022-2023 Malcolm M. Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium program series, Lysa Salsbury, current director of the Women's Center, and Kay Keskinen, U of I retiree and longtime friend of the center, presented on the history of the Conciliation Agreement, signed in response to the complaint of gender-based discrimination filed against the University of Idaho, which secured the future of the Women's Center. Approximately 15 people attended the program. The talk was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

NOVEMBER 2022, cont.

- **Wednesday, November 9 – “Title IX at the University of Idaho”**
A Zoom webinar exploring the changes, improvements, and ongoing challenges of the University of Idaho women's athletic programs since the implementation of Title IX. Participants included: Kathy Clark, the first Director of Women's Athletics; Terry Gawlik, the current Director of Athletics; Nancy Westermeyer Monroe, the first female student-athlete to receive an athletic scholarship; and Jayd Sprague, current student-athlete on the Vandals women's soccer team. The panel was moderated by Sandra Kelly, former student-athlete and newspaper sports editor, and current employee in the Dept. of Student Involvement. Approximately 20 people attended the program. The talk was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.
- **Tuesday, November 15 – The History of Athena**
A Zoom webinar featuring Lysa Salisbury, current director of the Women's Center and past president of Athena, and Kay Keskinen, U of I retiree and past vice president of Athena, discussing the history of the Athena Professional Women's Organization and its origins at the University of Idaho. Approximately 20 people attended the program.

DECEMBER 2022

- **Friday, December 2 to Friday, December 16 – Equity Extravaganza Online Silent Auction**
Supporters were invited to bid on a wide range of unique feminist collectibles and memorabilia, art and other luxury items donated by local area businesses. Sought-after items included original copies of Ms. Magazine signed by Gloria Steinem, gift certificates from local women-owned businesses, work by women artists and creators, items of historical interest and more. The auction raised \$3,150 to help support our 50th anniversary celebrations.
- **Friday, December 2 – Feminist Festivities 50th Anniversary Gala**
A terrific shindig celebrating 50 years of working for gender justice on campus and in the community. Guests enjoyed a no-hosted bar, a complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet catered by Mikey's Gyros, One World Café and Goose House Bakery, with live music by local all-women acoustic band The Chelseas, and dance music courtesy of TabiKat Productions. Tickets were free and approximately 100 people attended the event.

JANUARY 2023

- **Saturday, January 21 – Pack the Stands for “70s Night” at the Vandal Athletics women's home basketball game**
Supporters were invited to attend the women Vandals basketball game vs. the University of Northern Colorado, with a special half-time presentation honoring the 50th anniversary of the University of Idaho Women's Center and the passage of Title IX. General Admission tickets were available at a special promotional rate of two for one. Past and current high school and college athletes were encouraged to wear their letters, and there were special half-time tributes and prizes. Approximately 50 people attended a pre-game reception in the ICCU Alumni Lounge, and approximately 300-400 people attended the game.

FEBRUARY 2023

- **Wednesday, February 15 – “Women's Center Staff Speak”**
A Zoom webinar attended by approximately 30 people featuring a panel of past and current Women's Center staff members, including student staff, and constituents sharing their experiences of how the center's programming activities and outreach have evolved over the years. Panelists spoke about the origins of important and enduring programs such as Take Back the Night, The Vagina Monologues, and LunaFest, among others. Panelists included: Lori Van Buggenum, former student and co-founder of F.L.A.M.E. (1999-2003); Emily Sly, co-founder of F.L.A.M.E. and former staff member (2000-2004); Jenn Haylett, Women's Mentoring Program Coordinator (2005-2006); Amy Sharp, Program Advisor (2005-2007); Zulema Montenegro, student staff member (2012-2014); Bekah MillerMacPhee, Program Coordinator & OVW Project Director, (2014-2019); and Briana Navarro, student staff member (2018-2021). The webinar was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

MARCH 2023

- **Throughout March – “Brave & Bold Women at the University of Idaho” exhibit**
The U of I Libraries Dept. of Special Collections and KT Turner, Women's Center 50th Anniversary intern, collaborated to curate a commemorative exhibit on the library's 2nd floor, of 10 notable women in University of Idaho history who had made significant contributions to the institution. An opening reception for the exhibit was held on Wednesday, March 1, attended by about 20 people. The exhibit was on display throughout March, Women's History Month, and will be stored for re-display in future years.

MARCH 2023, cont.

- **Wednesday, March 22 – “Reflecting on the Impact of the Women’s Center”**

A Zoom webinar attended by approximately 20 people featuring a panel of interns, past and current students and friends of the Women’s Center sharing the impact of their involvement with the center through the years. Panelists discussed how the Women’s Center has supported faculty and staff, boosted women’s outdoor programming, served as a home base for student organizations such as F.L.A.M.E. and 25+ Vandals, and supported the growth of the Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies program. Panelists included: Corky Bush, former Student Services Administrator (oversaw the creation of the WC); Joy Passanante, Professor Emerita of English and early user of the WC (1973 onwards); Amy Lowe Hieb, former student and WC student staff member (2002-2006); Erin Fenner, former student and founder of the WC Blog (2007-2011); Ashley Centers, former WC intern; and Jackie Sedano, former student staff member and Program Coordinator. The webinar was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

APRIL 2023

- **Wednesday, April 19 – “Paying Tribute to Our Feminist Founders”**

A Zoom webinar featuring a panel of the five surviving signers of the Conciliation Agreement. Panelists shared their perspectives on the significance of the agreement and the changes it brought about in the campus culture and climate for women. Panelists included: M. Jolene Ramaker, Jane Langenes, Barbara Bradley Petura; Anne Hutchins Tatum; and Lindy High, all former U of I employees. The panel was moderated by Kay Keskinen, U of I retiree, former member of the Women’s Core Caucus, and longtime friend of the Women’s Center. The webinar was recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries Special Collections.

Historical Archives

An important part of the activities for the 50th anniversary celebrations involved finding ways to document the history of the Women’s Center and women’s programs at the University of Idaho. All of the webinars and talks detailed above were recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries’ Special Collections. In addition, a digital repository was created of documents and photographs significant to the Women’s Center’s history, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/womenscenter/>

Lysa Salsbury and KT Turner, a doctoral student in History and the Women’s Center’s 50th anniversary intern, conducted oral history interviews over Zoom with several individuals connected to the center. These interviews were recorded and archived in the U of I Libraries’ Special Collections. Individuals interviewed include:

- Tom Richardson, former Vice President for Student and Administrative Services
- Bruce Pitman, former Dean of Students and AVP of Student Affairs
- Corky Bush, former Student Services Administrator
- Jane Langenes, Director of the Women’s Center from 1972-1973
- Joy Passanante, early user of the Women’s Center and Professor Emerita of English
- Kay Keskinen, early user of the Women’s Center and former employee in U of I Computer Services
- Alayne Pettyjohn, Director of the Women’s Center from 1979-1985
- Nicole Lichtenberg, former Women’s Center student staff member (2012-2013)

Fundraising

In order to fund our 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Women’s Center raised over \$45,000 from campus and community partners and individual donors, through a variety of different means. Detailed below are the sums raised from each initiative:

- \$19,000 – Contributions from U of I offices/depts.
- \$18,185 – Online ScaleFunder campaign
- \$1,475 – Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse
- \$1,040 – Moscow Food Co-op’s Change for Good
- \$600 – Mikey’s Trivia Night
- \$3,150 – Auctria online silent auction
- \$800 – Vandal Giving Day
- \$465 – Sale of *DismantLE the Patriarchy*
- \$420 – Sale of 50th anniversary merchandise