

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs Newsletter

Trying to make a difference!

Special points of interest:

- Celebrating Women's History Month
- Do you know Pasty Mink?
- Krystina Howard, new face to OMSA
- Important fact of women in history
- Women's Speak Out

Inside this issue:

- Continuing of "A Woman You Should Know" 2
- OMSA's New Face 2
- Important fact about extraordinary Women. 3
- OMSA Women's Speak Out 3
- Remember When?: OMSA Speak Out: Black Men, So you think you 4

Celebrating Women's History Month!

Victoria P. Coleman

Women's History Month is celebrated in March. It began back in 1978, when the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California began a "Women's History Week" celebration. This particular month was selected to coincide with International Women's Day, which was first celebrated on March 8, 1911, in Europe. Due to the success of the National Women's History week, U.S. congress expanded it to a month in 1987.

The National Women's History Project was instrumental in this expansion. Every year, since then U. S. Congress has issued a resolution for Women's History

Month.

There were two significant factors that contributed to the development of women's history; the women's movement of the sixties which caused women to question their nonexistence in traditional American history texts. This movement also raised the objective as well as the prospects of women, and produced a growing number of female historians.

Women's History Month was also part of a larger movement that transformed the study of history in the United States. "History" had traditionally meant political history, but by the 1970's "the new social history"

began replacing the older style. Being that women on the odd occasion held leadership positions and until recently had only a marginal influence on politics, the new history was a supreme vehicle for presenting women's history.

Join OMSA in celebrating women's history month!!!



A Woman You Should Know!

Victoria P. Coleman

Patsy Mink, born on December 6, 1927, was a Japanese American and a member of the Democratic Party. As an American politician from the U.S. state of Hawaii, Mink served in the U.S. House of Representatives for a total of 12 terms, embodying Hawaii's second congressional district. Mink's contributions assisted with change that many young girls and women are benefiting from daily. Young girls can

play sports in school in an organized fashion. Women are being allowed access to an education and able to occupy employment opportunities in many different arenas.

Mink challenged old stereotypes about a "woman's place" and helped engineer the steady progress for women over the last four decades.

She accomplished a lot dur-

ing her life time, she was a leader in shepherding the passage of Title IX, (an Act of Congress focusing on equality in sport opportunities and called for the increase of college scholarships of women to ensure parity with male athletes), in 1972 to promote educational equity. In June, 2002, Mink was named a "NOW Woman of Vision" ...





Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink
(1927-2002)

Continuing pg 1-A Woman You Should Know

in a ceremony honoring the 30th Anniversary of Title IX.

In the last 10 years of her political leadership, Mink was a strong advocate on behalf of poor families. She worked sleepless nights promoting policies that addressed the idealism of poverty and last year collected extensive support in the House of Representatives for her legislation to offer additional education and skills that would support true independence.

Patsy Mink will always be

the first non-white woman to serve in Congress who was loved and respected. She is celebrated as one of the most important civil rights leaders, specifically for writing the Title IX Amendment which today preserves the rights of all genders in education.

Resources:

<http://www.now.org/history/patsymink.html><Copy right 1995-2006>

Wikipedia<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Patsy_Mink



“I would tell students that they need to get more involved, because being a student of color, sometimes we are over-looked.”

A new face in OMSA

Victoria P. Coleman

OMSA is always bringing in new faces. Krystina “Kryssy” Howard, a Milwaukee native and a freshman here at UW-Parkside has become one of OMSA’s first volunteer workers. I had the opportunity to speak with her about her life experience and volunteering in OMSA.

Victoria: What made you choose to attend UW-Parkside?

Kryssy: UW-Parkside is one of the most diverse schools in the UW-System and also a smaller school as well. It’s also away from home, but not too far.

Victoria: Have you declared a major yet? If not, what are you leaning towards?

Kryssy: I have a double major, Business and Communication, and I plan on opening my own public relations firm.

Victoria: How did you become a volunteer for OMSA?

Kryssy: I just came in and

asked DJ if there was anything that he needed for me to do, and he gave me this opportunity.

Victoria: What are some of the highs and lows that comes with volunteering?

Kryssy: One of the lows is that you can get easily distracted, but some of the high’s are helping students and being a part of different programs that OMSA coordinates.

Victoria: If you could describe OMSA in one word what would it be? Why?

Kryssy: Helpful, because they offer so many services, advising and financial aid assistance just to name a few.

Victoria: You are a part of the (ARU) Always Reaching Upward Mentoring program, how has that experience been?

Kryssy: Great, I have a good mentor and the program has helped me become more

active on campus. I would not have done so well if I wouldn’t have had a mentor.

Victoria: What would you say your number one goal would be before you graduate from UW-Parkside?

Kryssy: To graduate at the top of my class.

Victoria: As a woman of color, what advice would you give your fellow students here at UW-Parkside?

Kryssy: I would tell students that they need to get more involved, because being a student of color, sometimes we are over-looked. The more students get involved, it would be easy for people to write letters of recommendations because they know that you have been involved on campus.



Krystina “Kryssy” Howard

OMSA Women's Speak Out

Victoria P. Coleman

OMSA along with Ladies for a Multicultural Tomorrow, Peer Health Educators (PHE) and PGSA Women's Issue Committee opened up Women's History Month with a Speak Out: Real bodies!! Real women! Women of color Speak Out.

The facilitator, Jackie Smith, a sophomore at UW-Parkside opened up questions to a panel of six women of different cultural backgrounds; Meridith Gould (Communications professor), Katherine Gregory (Communications professor), Rita Altmeyer (Equal Opportunity Specialist), Michaelina Young (Director of Health and Counseling Services), Mirella Perez (Member of Ladies for a Multicultural Tomorrow) and Stacy Yang (Member of Women's Issues Committee). These ladies discussed stereotypes, body images, and how they identified themselves in society.

The discussion started with a slide provided by Penny Lyter (Associate professor/chair HPEA) on weight management-health behavior categories which was a study taken among UW-Parkside students. 23% said that they were somewhat unhealthy, 28% considered themselves healthy and 49% are at risk.

Jackie then asked the ladies on the panel how they identified themselves in society. Meridith Gould started saying that she is not a woman of color, but she is Jewish. Within the Jewish community stereotypes of body images

exist but which she does not have, such as large nose, hips and thighs.

On the other hand there are women like Katherine Gregory who is first generation Armenian American, and in her culture body features such as big lips, big teeth and hairy eyebrows that stand out are considered "ugly". She also mentioned that her comfort level when she is around the white culture is very low because they tend to judge her appearance which is not the typical figure in the white community.

Michaelina Young said that as an African American plus size woman, she likes to wear things that compliment her and tries to be the opposite of what the dominant society expects of African American women.

Rita Altmeyer said that her blond hair may throw people off about what her nationality really is--Native American, although she doesn't have an answer to why she dyes her naturally dark hair blonde. "I started dying it when I was younger, and as I got older I guess I stuck with it".

Mirella Perez identified herself as a first generation Mexican American who is not the average exotic and thin Mexican woman that people usually see. She struggled to fit in, but she has learned to appreciate her curves and now she is happy with whom she is.

Stacy Yang, a second generation Hmong American said that

she has to balance what her weight symbolizes in the Hmong culture and in America. In the Hmong culture being round means that you are strong but in America, where being thin is the norm, being round symbolizes weakness.

These six women all have different backgrounds, but all seem to have the same thing in common. They all face and identify themselves as being opposite to what society tends to stereotype their personal culture as. In addition Rita commented, "the myth of having the perfect body has led to the production of "reality television shows of plastic surgery makeovers", and that is not the standard mind set that women should have.

With all of this said, Jackie along with the panel wanted to get the message out that yes there are stereotypes about women, and some women take being perfect to the extreme but at the end of the day, we are who we are and we should learn to appreciate ourselves.

"23% said that they were somewhat unhealthy, 28% considered themselves healthy and 49% are at risk"



(Left to Right)
Meridith Gould, Katherine Gregory, Rita Altmeyer, Michaelina Young, Mirella Perez and Stacy Yang.

Facts on Women in History who did it First!

Olivia Lozoya

In honor of Women's History Month OMSA would like to recognize the many contributions of women throughout history. Here are a few remarkable facts called **Women's Firsts**:

In 1969 Shirley Chisholm of New York, became the first African-American woman in Congress. Her motto was : "Unbought and unbossed." She served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 14 years.

The first Latina in Congress is Representative Ileana Ros Lehtinen, who took office in 1989 and remains serving.

In 1983 Dr. Sally K. Ride became the first American woman sent into space.

In 1990 Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in as U.S Surgeon General, and became the first woman and first Hispanic to hold that position.

On January 2, 1991 Sharon Pratt Dixon was sworn in as Mayor of Washington, D.C., and became the first Mayor of a Major city.

In 1993 Toni Morrison became the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.

Women's History Month is very imperative and should not only be taught in the month of March. Knowing our history is extremely important in order to distinguish where we want to be in life.

These amazing and exception-

ally brave women are mentors and inspirations to women, so that they can reach a higher goal than anyone would have ever believed.

Ending with a question: What do the inventor's of the bullet proof vest, passenger elevators and windshield wipers have in common? Its bizarre; Keep guessing! You guessed it! They are all women!!! I was asked something similar this in our school library by an employee and I guessed correctly, but purely out of luck!

Trying to make a difference!

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
UW-Parkside, Wyllie D182
900 Wood Road, BOX 2000

Phone: (262) 595-2731

E-mail: <http://www.uwp.edu/departments/multicultural.affairs>

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.UWP.EDU/
DEPARTMENTS/
MULTICULTURAL.AFFAIRS](http://www.uwp.edu/departments/multicultural.affairs)

Remember when?

Victoria P. Coleman

OMSA is known for creating successful cultural programs. Their Speak Outs provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff and community members to share diverse perspectives, to educate and create a greater understanding of misunderstood topics and issues.

Last month, being Black History month, the Speak Out; "Black Men: So You Think You Understand Us!!!", also sponsored by Black Student Union, addressed many essential questions that African American men and young men face.

Dayvin Hallmon, the moderator, opened questions to a panel of four; Herman Singleton, Dr. William N. Hallmon, Bishop Lawrence Kirby

and Brandon Clark (advisor at UW-Parkside). This panel of professionals discussed their experiences on the topic of being "so-called" understood by society.

When questioned if blackness can be attained, the panel was all in concurrence that you can not attain being black because you are who you are and no matter what you will always be black. Dr. William N. Hallmon made an immense remark saying that we as African Americans need to know our culture so when we learn about others, we can communicate and not have other people define who we are, "Get educated and communicate" was his last comment.

Herman Singleton also made an interesting state-

ment saying that some young black youth don't have positive role models to look up to. 50 cent is influencing children to carry guns to provoke violence. He also went on saying that our African American youth who are being raised by single mothers need to be around positive black men.

The panel also addressed the controversy remark that Bill Cosby made. Cosby basically said that young black men need to "pull their pants up and stop whining". Although many people disagree with what Bill Cosby articulated about the African American community, the panel agreed with his statement.

Over all, the Speak Out was a huge success and the audience walked out leaving with a better understanding of how it is to be black in a society that tends to stereotype our black men and boys.

OMSA Mission Statement:

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs promotes a diverse inclusive campus environment and serves as a resource to the campus community as well as the surrounding community, while offering academic and cultural programs. It is our goal to enhance the college experience, so all students achieve academically and compete in a global society.



Participants from the Black History Month Speak Out include from left to right: Dayvin Hallmon, Herman Singleton, Dr. William N. Hallman, Brandon Clark and Bishop Lawrence Kirby.