

# EMPOWER

January/February 2011

“Good is towing the line, being behaved, being quiet, being passive, fitting in, being liked, and great is being messy, having a belly, speaking your mind, standing up for what you believe in, fighting for another paradigm, not letting people talk you out of what you know to be true.”

~ Eve Ensler

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Iclal Vanwesenbeeck

Greetings everyone,

Mark your calendars for an exciting semester of events. The Vagina Monologues, LunaFest, Faculty-Student Ultimate Frisbee fundraising event, the Gender Conference, and numerous other Women's History Months events are just a few reasons to follow our calendar this Spring. You may remember our Fall 2010 screening of *Orgasm Inc.* and Q&A with Liz Canner. Thanks to Dr. Ingrid Johnston Robledo's efforts, we will have the honor of welcoming Dr. Leonore Tiefer from New View to our campus in March.

And a few words about submissions and deadlines: If you have written a paper on gender, please consider submitting an abstract to this year's Gender Conference. Details are in this issue. We also encourage you to apply to the Jeanette McVicker Scholarship. Again, more information and deadlines can be found on the last page of this issue of Empower.

Until next time,

Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck

# V-Day 2011!

*\$3 students*  
*\$6 general public*  
*Tickets at the Box Office*

## *The Vagina Monologues*

Thursday Feb. 17, Friday Feb. 18, and Saturday Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

\* Shows will take place in the Williams Center multi-purpose room

### The Show

The Vagina Monologues has been described as "Spellbinding, funny, and almost unbearably moving. . . . Written with a bluntness that is nevertheless intensely lyrical, it is both a work of art and an incisive piece of cultural history, a poem and a polemic, a performance and a balm and a benediction." –Variety. Eve Ensler wrote the Vagina Monologues in 1996 based on interviews she conducted with 200 women on various subjects including sex, relationships and violence towards women. Since then, it has exploded into a global celebration of female sexuality.



Cast members left to right:  
 Kim Krenzer (Eve)  
 Ashley Evans (A six year old)  
 Marisa Caruso (Crooked Braid)

*This show has taught me a lot about myself as a woman and the women around me and to appreciate them for who they are, as well as myself. It also brought my attention to a lot of sexual violence that I was unaware of before. I feel that this show has changed me in the most profound way. I have become a warrior for women everywhere and I've learned that if you can change one life, you change a lot of lives— and that's a big deal! -Kim Krenzer*

### The Spotlight Monologue

This year's spotlight is dedicated to the women and girls of Haiti. Since the earthquake that occurred in January, 2010 violence against women has risen. Approximately 70% of women and girls have experienced some form of domestic or sexual violence. The spotlight monologue is in memory of a woman named Myriam Merlet who tried to organize a production of the Vagina Monologues in Port Au Prince and met a lot of resistance and censorship from the government. In 2008 she was responsible for the creation of a safe house, which tragically was destroyed in the earthquake. Myriam Merlet was killed. This spotlight is dedicated to her memory.

### Where the Money Goes

The Vagina Monologues functions under the phrase "Until the Violence Stops." We will continue performing this show until women and girls are safe from violence. The V-DAY campaign is organized to aid women who have been affected by violence and aims to prevent it. 90% of the profit from the show and fundraising will go toward the Anew Women's Shelter in Jamestown, the other 10% will go towards the V-DAY campaign's spotlight cause which this year is the women and girls of Haiti. Thank you to the Women's Student Union for funding this event.

Yes, I would like to help stop violence against women and girls by supporting V-Day 2011 at SUNY Fredonia!



Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Fredonia College Foundation with a memo noted to V-Day 2011 at the (circle one) level:  
 Love \$25      Valentine \$50      Divine \$100      V-Angel \$300      Queen V \$500

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Fredonia College Foundation** with a memo to the **V-Day 2011 Campaign**.  
 C/o Sarah Clayton  
 Women's Studies Office  
 171A Fenton Hall  
 SUNY Fredonia  
 Fredonia, NY 14063

Fredonia College Foundation is acting fiscal agent for this event and is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## Spotlight on This Year's Vagina Monologues Directors: Briana Wilson and Mary Hilton!

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to co-direct the 2011 Vagina Monologues this year. After having the fortune of performing in the show twice, I felt the need to have a bigger role in bringing the show to an audience. As an Applied Music major, I am always seeking ways to branch out from Mason Hall and this experience has given me MANY opportunities to do so! After graduation in May, I hope and plan to continue being active in the "VagMos" either as a director or an actress, and a crusader in the V-Day campaign. This show has found its way into the hearts of women in countries all over the world. It is touching, heart-wrenching, incendiary, hilarious, heartbreaking, and adorable all the same. Over the course of two and a half hours, women engage in the emotional rollercoaster of the year, and have done so every February for over ten years. The Vagina Monologues has worked its way into my heart and found a permanent place there, and I hope it reaches another heart this year. I hope to see you there!



V-love,  
Briana

For several years the Women's Student Union has funded the production of "The Vagina Monologues" on SUNY Fredonia's Campus. The show, written by Eve Ensler, was created in her desire to raise awareness on domestic abuse and violence against women. What started as one show grew into an entire organization now known as the V-Day Movement. According to the organizations website 5,400 V-Day events occur annually, including SUNY Fredonia's production. After performing in the show for the past two years, and now co-directing it, I have found a deep connection to the show and the V-Day organization. It would be fair to say that Eve Ensler's goal of raising awareness was met in my situation. I feel so strongly about the cause, and am so proud to be apart of this years production. All our girls have been working so hard and I am thrilled for everyone to come watch! The show has so any fun moments as well as serious performances, and in the end I think it is something people will be happy they came to see :)

Mary



## Call for Papers

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Studies Program

Student Research Conference on Gender

Tuesday, March 29th, 6:30 PM, Horizon Room (Light Refreshments will be served)

**Submission Deadline: February 28th 2011**

### Research Project Submission Criteria:

- Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit their work, and both paper and visually-based project submissions will be accepted.
- Accepted paper submissions will demonstrate a critical analysis of primary and secondary sources and/or the presentation of an empirical research project.
- Visually-based projects (e.g., art projects, web designs, power-point presentations, charts/models, etc.) will demonstrate a critical engagement with (or will exemplify) current research in student's field and the field of Women's or Gender Studies.
- Submissions may include projects from Spring/Fall 2010 OR works in progress from the current semester (Spring 2011).
- By submitting a project, the student is committing to present at the conference if her/his work is accepted. Students may be asked to present their work as part of a speaker panel OR as part of our poster session—a new feature we're looking forward to this year.

*\*Students whose projects are selected for a speaker panel will deliver a 10-15 minute oral presentation at the conference that either reflects their work in a longer paper or explicates the research process(es) associated with and the attributes/purposes of a visually-based project. Students invited to participate in the poster session should be prepared to explicate and answer questions about their research through a poster designed for the conference.*

### Submission Instructions:

- Submit a 500-1000 word abstract/project description to Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck, Department of English, 269 Fenton Hall (mailbox in 277 Fenton). Include a separate cover sheet with your name, email address, phone number, major/minor, the semester and course the paper/project came from, and the name of the instructor who is overseeing the project.
- Any questions about submissions or the conference may be directed to [Vanwesen@fredonia.edu](mailto:Vanwesen@fredonia.edu)



Women's Studies  
SUNY FREDONIA

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## Call for Women's Studies Scholarship Applicants

The Jeanette McVicker Women's Studies Scholarship was established to recognize and encourage scholarship—and activism informed by scholarly inquiry—in the area of women's studies.

### Eligible Applicants:

- Have taken/are taking WOST 201, Introduction to Women's Studies, and six additional hours in courses with the women's studies designation (WOST).
- Shows academic promise. (Suggested GPA of at least 3.0)
- Shows potential to improve status of women through scholarship and/or activism.
- \* Declared Women's Studies minors and majors will be given preference.

In order to apply, one must submit:

1. Cover sheet
2. Essay
3. Two Letters of Recommendation
4. Transcript: An unofficial copy from the registrar's office will suffice.

Turn in THREE copies of your cover sheet, essay, and transcript, and single copies of letters of recommendation to the Women's Studies Office, 171A Fenton Hall, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY 14063. For questions, call or email Iclal Vanwesenbeeck, Director of Women's Studies Program, 673-3850, Vanwesen@fredonia.edu.

**Deadline: February 28, 2011**

Please see our website for more detailed information about the application process and requirements at [www.fredonia.edu/womensstudies](http://www.fredonia.edu/womensstudies).