

# Annual Report to the Chancellor

Women's Center

University of Missouri-Kansas City

June 8, 2010



## INTRODUCTION

Chancellor Morton, on behalf of Kristin Webster, 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 38th 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. This year's report has a new format – it begins with a brief overview of the Women's Center "by the numbers" and then outlines our accomplishments as they relate to UMKC's strategic goals.

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## BY THE NUMBERS

- o We received **\$28,443** in endowment income, gifts, program co-sponsorships, and fundraising/sales, as well as in-kind donations worth **\$2,651**.
- o Our total grant/gift/sponsorship/fundraising income for FY 2010 was **\$101,958**, which is approximately 40% of the Women's Center's annual expenses.
- o The Women's Center hosted **22** events in the fall semester, and **35** in the spring.
- o Our Victim Services Adjudication Advisor provided over **300** hours of advocacy to **29** victims of sexual violence.
- o We reached a total of **13,115** people (**4,060** more than in AY 2008-09) through the following face-to-face methods:
  - Attendance at Women's Center and Violence Prevention and Response Programs = **6,832**
  - Number reached at Admissions/Recruitment Events (Orientations, Visit Days, African-American/Hispanic Youth Days, etc.) = **2,447**
  - Number reached through non-admissions-related Outreach Events = **932**
  - Number of students, faculty, and staff receiving Violence Prevention Training = **1,538**
  - Office walk-ins = **1,014**
- o In addition, we were incredibly successful at increasing the number of people who engage with the Women's Center online:
  - Our three websites (Women's Center, Violence Prevention & Response Project, and Starr Symposium) saw a major increase in both total number of visits and unique visitors:
    - Number of visits ("hits") to our websites = **24,309** versus **7,577** in 2008-2009
    - Number of unique visitors = **17,698** versus **2,362** in 2008-2009
  - Our blog readership also grew significantly, with **20,953** visits in 2009-10 compared to **1,425** visits in 2008-09. The number of comments has also increased, indicating an engaged readership.
- o We partnered with over **50** campus and community departments and organizations to provide quality programs and services to the UMKC and Kansas City communities.
- o Approximately **152** volunteers contributed more than **1,105** volunteer hours to the Women's Center.
- o Our programs and services also drew much media attention resulting in **22** news articles in print, on TV, and on the web.

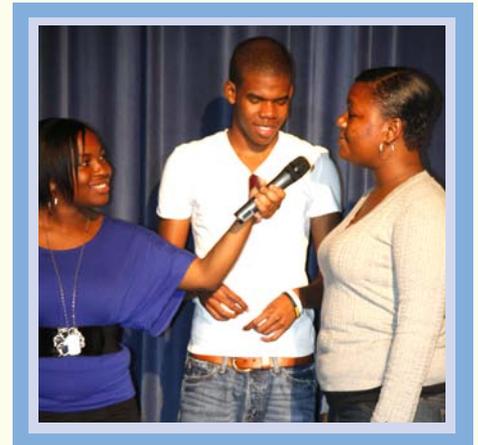


## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Women's Center hosted twenty-two events in the Fall 2009 semester and thirty-five in Spring 2010. Programming highlights are below and are listed under the UMKC strategic plan goals with which they correspond.

**Goal 1. Place Student Success at the Center:** To provide the optimal learning environment for all students: outstanding academic programs and experiences, seamless student support and a vibrant campus community.

- o Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: In September, we hosted the third annual "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 relations and decreasing the potential for violence. With over 200 people in attendance, this event not only raised awareness and funds for the Violence Prevention and Response Project, but also provided an on-campus, co-curricular experience that encouraged student engagement and community participation. Additionally, the event brought the Center good publicity, helping to raise our profile both on and off campus.
- o V-Day Programs: This year we held many informative events in recognition of V-Day. V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls. Some of this year's events included the V-Men workshops and the Benefit Screenings of "Until the Violence Stops" and "What I Want My Words To Do To You." The documentaries were held on and off campus to engage both students and community members in the fight to end violence in our communities. The V-Men workshops challenged men from various backgrounds to develop strategies that will end violence against women and girls. These events not only empowered participants, but also provided diverse learning experiences and improved community and campus relations.
- o Take Back the Night: In April, we held our annual Take Back the Night Rally and March. The event examined the topics of sexual assault and rape with over 130 participants. Additionally, Take Back the Night provided an environment to improve cultural competency on and off campus. With over 60 community members in attendance, this event served as a great tool for urban engagement.



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (continued)

- o Starr Women Leaders Program: This leadership development program was a follow-up to the 2009 Starr Symposium. 13 female UMKC students were mentors to 27 area high school students, with the common thread among all students being a shared interest in science, technology, engineering or math. In addition to the mentoring component of the program, the students participated in a variety of leadership development sessions, educational programs, and social events throughout the academic year. As an opportunity for cross campus collaboration and community engagement, these sessions were facilitated by 19 volunteer career professionals.
- o Barbie Programs: In March, we partnered with the Toy and Miniature Museum to provide programs to enhance their year-long Barbie exhibit, "Celebrating 50 Fabulous Years with America's Favorite Doll." Five events took place including academic lectures, a movie screening, and open discussions. In an effort to increase outreach and to reach a broader audience, the events were held at various locations on campus and the surrounding area including the Toy and Miniature Museum, the Miller Nichols Library, and the Kansas City Public Library, Plaza Branch. Approximately 160 people total attended these events. Brenda Bethman also taught a one-credit course on "Barbie, Body Image, and Consumer Culture" through the College of Arts and Sciences.
- o Her Art Project: The Her Art Project was a series of programs in April designed to celebrate Kansas City women in the arts and explore the challenges women artists face as they bring together motherhood, careers, and artistic fulfillment. Beginning with a group art exhibit in Kansas City's Crossroads Art District featuring 28 local female artists, the project also included a lecture on women in film at Miller Nichols Library, a documentary screening and panel discussion at the Tivoli Theater, and an artist salon at the Diastole. Bringing together 14 campus and community partners including the UMKC Conservatory of Music & Dance, the UMKC Dept. of Communications, the UMKC Dept. of Theater, the Leedy-Voulkos Arts Center, the Women's Employment Network, and many others, the Her Art project reached over 3,000 people through its events, press coverage, and social media.
- o Student Programming: The Women's Center student staff was given the opportunity to develop, plan, and implement three events during the 2009-2010 academic year. The "Love Your Body Day Fashion Show" was held in October in conjunction with the National Organization for Women's national campaign to promote positive body image in women and girls. Planning this event allowed the student staff to develop organizational and event planning skills and to create networks across campus and in the community that resulted in excellent student participation and community collaborations. "Throwing Like a Girl' Since 1972" was a panel discussion held in February and brought together a diverse group of UMKC and community folks who discussed their experiences before and after the passage of Title IX. While planning this event, the student staff learned about the historical context of Title IX and its value to all students today. "Barbie: Love Her or Leave Her" was held in March in collaboration with the Toy and Miniature Museum's Barbie exhibit. The students produced a short documentary film that featured members of the UMKC community, and then led a discussion that critically analyzed the key issues in people's love/hate relationship with Barbie. The student staff's involvement with these events allowed them to become engaged in the campus and KC communities, provided co-curricular, hands-on, opportunities for learning, and challenged them to deliver programs that were innovative, thought-provoking, and meaningful to their success as students at UMKC.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (continued)

**Goal 3. Advance Urban Engagement:** To become a model urban university by fully engaging with the Kansas City community to enhance education, public health, the arts and economic development.

- o The Vagina Monologues: Our benefit performances of the Vagina Monologues not only delighted audiences for two nights in February, but also raised over \$3,000 for organizations that fight violence against women and girls. This year's local beneficiary was the UMKC Violence Prevention and Response Project. We also donated funds to the V-Day national spotlight campaign, Women and Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The event brought over 100 community members to campus, which helped to enhance UMKC's relationship with the Kansas City community.
- o Walk a Mile (see goal 1)
- o V-Day Programs (see goal 1)
- o Take Back the Night (see goal 1)
- o Starr Women Leaders Program (see goal 1)
- o Barbie Programs (see goal 1)
- o Her Art Project (see goal 1)

**Goal 4. Excel in the Visual and Performing Arts:** To create excellent programs in visual and performing arts that are central to campus life and support Kansas City's initiatives in entrepreneurship, urban education and innovation.

- o The Vagina Monologues (see goal 3)
- o Her Art Project (see goal 1)

**Goal 5. Embrace Diversity:** To celebrate diversity in all aspects of university life, creating inclusive environments, culturally competent citizens, and globally-oriented curricula and programs.

- o The Vagina Monologues (see goal 3)
- o V-Day Programs (see goal 1)
- o Take Back the Night (see goal 1)
- o Starr Women Leaders Program (see goal 1)
- o Barbie Programs (see goal 1)
- o Her Art Project (see goal 1)

**Goal 6. Promote Research and Economic Development:** To produce world-class scholarship and creative activity, encourage entrepreneurship, foster innovation, increase technology transfer, and build relationships that create economic and workforce development.

- o Her Art Project (see goal 1)



## VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECT

First funded in September 2005, the Women's Center received a continuation grant for the Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) Project in September 2007 from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women in the amount of \$286,647.

Grant funds allow us to employ a half-time Violence Prevention Coordinator and a full-time Victim Services Adjudication Advisor. The Violence Prevention Coordinator coordinates all programming relating to sexual and gender violence, while the VSAA serves as an advocate for students going through the campus judicial process or reporting to the campus police department. From July 2008 through May 2010, the VSAA worked on 29 cases, close to double the number (17) that the Women's Center saw from July 2008 through June 2009.

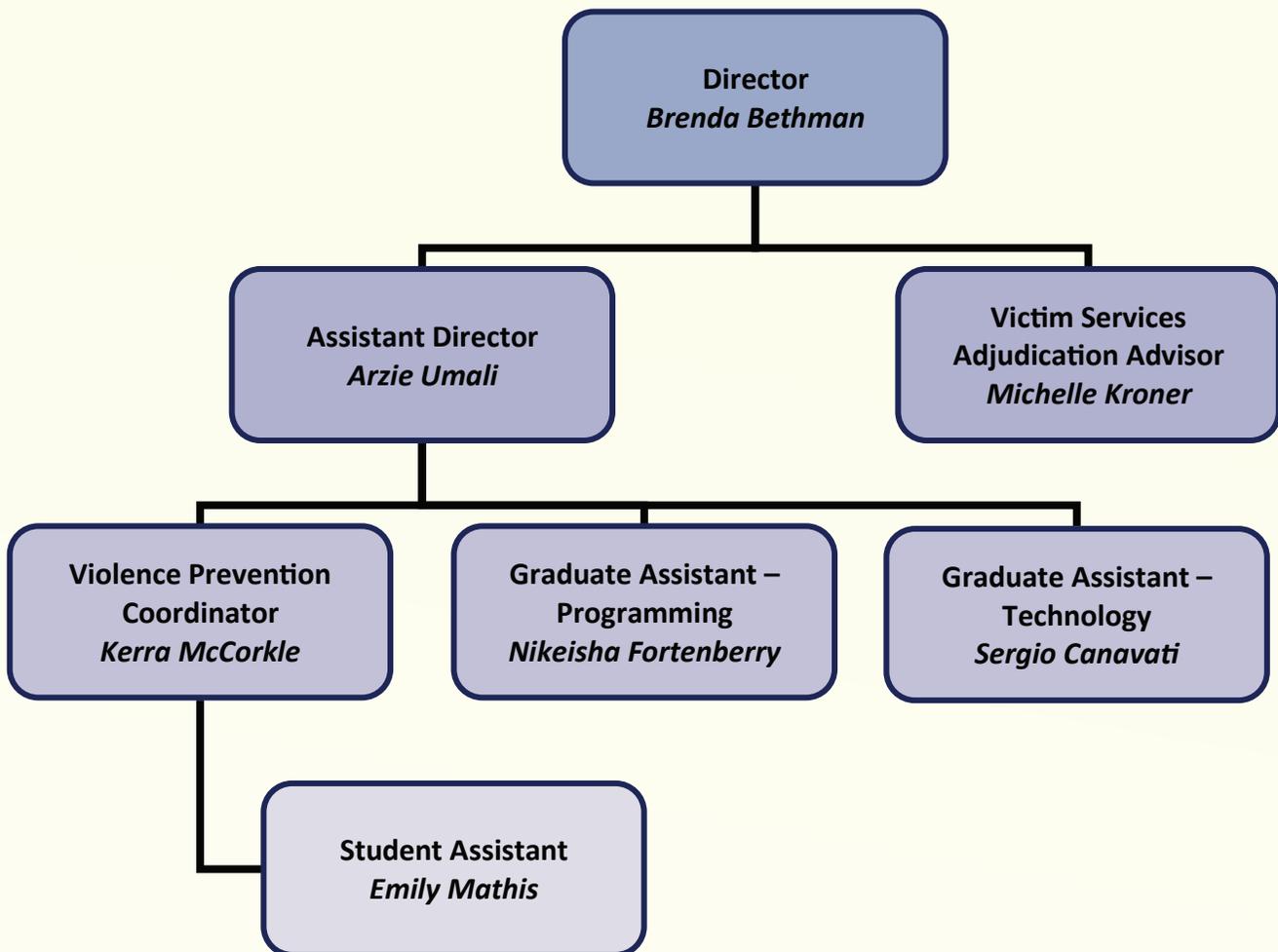


### Summary of the cases handled by the VSAA:

- o Sexual assault: **5**
- o Intimate partner violence: **17**
- o Stalking: **7**
  
- o Number of victims who reported the incident to law enforcement: **13**
- o Number of cases charged: **2**
- o Number of offenses resulting in UMKC disciplinary/judicial board action: **7**
- o Judicial outcome of above cases: **All informal dispositions accepted (one is pending and could go to the hearing panel); Reprimands include counseling and/ or sexual harassment training.**

## 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 and one part-time professionals, as well as three student staff. Below is an organizational chart showing our current staff:





## WOMEN'S CENTER COLLABORATIONS IN THE 2009-10 ACADEMIC YEAR

### *UMKC Departments and Organizations*

- o Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
- o Activity and Program Council
- o Athletics
- o Career Services
- o Conservatory of Music & Dance
- o Conservatory of Music and Dance - Community Music and Dance Academy
- o Counseling, Health, & Testing
- o Dept. of Communication Studies
- o Dept. of Theater
- o Disability Services
- o Diversity Week
- o Fraternity & Sorority Affairs
- o Interfraternity Council
- o LGBTQIA Resource Center
- o MindBody Connection
- o Multicultural Student Affairs
- o National Panhellenic Council
- o Residential Life
- o Special Events
- o Student Health & Wellness
- o Student Life Office
- o Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life
- o Swinney Recreation Center
- o UMKC Bookstore
- o UMKC Police Department
- o University Libraries
- o Welcome Center
- o Women's and Gender Studies Program
- o Women's Council



### *Community Organizations*

- o American Association of University Women
- o American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri
- o Annedore's Fine Chocolates
- o Arts Incubator
- o Black Healthcare Coalition
- o Human Rights Campaign
- o Institute of Public Policy, MU
- o Joan Beahm Communications



## WOMEN'S CENTER COLLABORATIONS IN THE 2009-10 ACADEMIC YEAR

### *Community Organizations (continued)*

- o Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
- o Kansas City Public Library
- o Kansas City Police Department
- o Leedy-Voulikos Arts Center
- o Mixed Blood Women
- o Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault
- o Missouri Department of Women's Health and Senior Services
- o On The Record
- o Planned Parenthood
- o Rose Brooks Center
- o Self-Protection.org
- o SIDS Support Group
- o STUFF
- o The Tivoli Theater
- o Toy & Miniature Museum
- o Westport Center for the Arts
- o Willow Productions
- o WomenHeart
- o Women's Employment Network
- o YWCA of Greater Kansas City



*Women's Center staff also served on various committees on campus and in the community during the 2009-2010 academic year. Committees and organizations include:*

- o 2010 Courtwarming Committee
- o American Civil Liberties Union
- o ACLU Liberty Awards Planning Committee
- o Black Women Leaders Conference
- o The Central Exchange
- o Faculty Senate
- o Freedom Breakfast Planning Committee
- o LGBTQIA Coordinator Search Committee
- o National Scholarships Mock Interviews/Selection Committee
- o Osher Scholars Selection Committee
- o Safe Spring Break
- o Self-Protection.org
- o Social Media Club Kansas City
- o Sorority/Fraternity Man/Woman of the Year Selection Committee
- o Staff Council
- o Women's Council
- o Women's & Gender Studies Program





## Conclusion

It is not an exaggeration to say that 2009-10 has been the most successful year at the Women's Center since I arrived here in January 2007. We increased the number of engaged constituents reached through our programs and services, diversified our program offerings, and raised the Center's national profile through the use of social media and strategic alliances with national feminists and organizations. Our success continues to ensure the equity of women on campus and in the community as well as the success of all students at UMKC.



The UMKC Women's Center 24/7 Worldwide

**UMKC Women's Center**  
[www.umkc.edu/womenc](http://www.umkc.edu/womenc)

**UMKC Violence Prevention and Response**  
[www.umkc.edu/endviolence](http://www.umkc.edu/endviolence)

**UMKC Women's Center Blog**  
<http://umkcwomenc.wordpress.com>

**UMKC Women's Center Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/umkcwomenc](http://www.facebook.com/umkcwomenc)



The UMKC Women's Center on Campus

**105 Haag Hall | 5100 Rockhill Road,  
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499**

**phone 816.235.1638 | fax 816.235.5522**

[umkc-womens-center@umkc.edu](mailto:umkc-womens-center@umkc.edu)