Although Thanksgiving Day 2012 is now in the past, my gratitude is ever present. I am so very thankful for the amazing Women's Commission Executive Board, and for all of the people who contribute to the ongoing success of the commission. This includes all of you who participate in our programs and join us in recognizing and celebrating the myriad accomplishments of the women of Saint Louis University. Enjoy this edition of the newsletter and please join us when you are able.

Thank you for helping us celebrate 40 years of ENRICHMENT, EMPOWERMENT, and EDUCATION with the women of Saint Louis U.

Happy, healthy holidays!
Nancy Culbert
2012-2013 President, Women's Commission

President’s Message

Screening of Mickey Mouse Monopoly
Tuesday, Dec. 4 in Busch Student Center

The Women’s Commission and the YWCA will co-host a special screening of Mickey Mouse Monopoly on Tuesday, Dec. 4, in room 256 of the Busch Student Center from noon to 1 p.m.

The screening and subsequent discussion will look at racism, sexism, and Disney. All are invited to attend with their lunch.
SLU Women to be Honored at YWCA Leader Lunch

Nine Saint Louis University women will be honored as Leaders in the Workplace at the 2012 YWCA Leader Lunch on December 6. These women were nominated by their peers and colleagues for their outstanding work performance, leadership qualities, special talents, and outside activities and service to others:

Heather Bednarek, Chair, Economics/Associate Professor, CSB-Economics
Judy Pierce, Administrative Assistant, CSB-Service Leadership
Ethel Frese, Associate Professor, Nursing/Physical Therapy
Tanya Griffin, Manager, Student Services, Professional Studies
Maria Jose Morell, Director, Enrollment Management, SLU Madrid
Katrina Wade, Associate Professor, SOM-Emergency Room
Julie Gammack, Associate Professor, SOM-Internal Medicine - Geriatrics
Heather Macarthur, Associate Professor, SOM-Pharm/Physiology

Sharon Frey, M.D., professor of internal medicine and infectious diseases and clinical director of Saint Louis University’s Center for Vaccine Development, has been recognized by the YWCA of Metro St. Louis as a Leader of Distinction. Dr. Frey was nominated by the SLU Women’s Commission and will be honored in the field of Education at the Leader Lunch.

Women’s Commission Partners with Graduate Student Association to host screening of Miss Representation

The Women’s Commission and the Saint Louis University Graduate Student Association partnered to host a screening of Miss Representation in early November. The event was the first co-hosted program. Both organizations valued the opportunity to discuss issues of equality with a greater audience and plan to co-host more events in the future. They are also eager to host another screening of the film with any other campus group or organization that would like to discuss the film’s look at the representation of women in media.

In addition to the GSA and the YWCA of Metro St. Louis, the Women’s Commission is anxious to form relationships with organizations that share their eagerness to offer opportunities for women to improve their lives. Interested organizations should e-mail wc@slu.edu.
Mary Bruemmer Receives Honors from SLU, St. Louis

A founding member of the Saint Louis University Women’s Commission was recently named one of this year’s Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans and honored by the SLU Women’s Council. Mary Bruemmer, Women’s Commission ex-officio and long-time employee and volunteer at SLU, was one of 22 honored at the 10th annual Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans gala on November 11. The announcement was made in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on October 21 and noted that Ms. Bruemmer has been a part of SLU for more than one-third of its 194-year existence.

In a November meeting of the Women’s Council at SLU, Ms. Bruemmer was also honored with the renaming of the council’s scholarship fund. Now called the “Women’s Council Mary Bruemmer Endowed Scholarship Fund,” the fund was established in 1984 to provide financial assistance to SLU students. Ms. Bruemmer was a member in 1958 when Paul Reinert, S.J. established the council.

Student Leadership Opportunity to be Announced

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Women’s Commission, and in an effort to support the professional and leadership development of SLU’s female students, the Executive Board will be granting a $500 scholarship to a female student to attend a conference of her choice. This student will also receive individualized mentoring prior to attending the conference and a web of support upon her return as she works to integrate that which she learned into her life at SLU. The application process will include a personal statement and a faculty recommendation. Details on the process will be released at the beginning of the spring semester.

Women’s Commission Holiday Tradition Returns

For more than 15 years, the Women’s Commission has offered a special holiday program. Back by popular demand, Vicki Riek Wroblewski, former president of the Women’s Commission and former director of the Office of Affirmative Action, now visiting SLU from St. Luke’s Hospital, will show how to make a take-home holiday creation.

This year, we will also be collecting baby items for the young children at Our Little Haven and canned goods or food items for Campus Kitchen. Bring your lunch and join us for coffee, tea and cookies *Thursday, Dec. 13 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Refectory Hall, DuBourg Hall, room 157*. This program is free, but reservations are limited to 40 people. Please send your name, e-mail and department to *wc@slu.edu*. Deadline to register is December 6.
II) GROWING PAINS – THE FIRST DECADE 1973-82

It had taken three years of exploring, discussion, national consultants, and negotiations to come up with the “enabling” document, which was introduced to the University community on March 23, 1973. (See “In the beginning . . .” WC Newsletter, October 2012.) The approved Constitution provided for an appointed board, drawn from administration, faculty, staff, students, and the outside community. Women were to comprise at least two-thirds of the membership. A lengthy list of responsibilities was included in the document handed to the first Board as it launched into uncharted waters.

Charter members were administrators Dr. Edwin Eigel, Dr. Gerard Fowler, Dean Mary Bruemmer, and Dr. Barbara Seelye; faculty Dr. Martha Ellert, Dr. Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilleux, Dr. Gladys Gruenberg, and Dr. John J. O’Brien; staff members Henry Scott, Joyce Huelsmann, Maggie Jones, and Sister Julia Mahoney; students Maureen Gleason, Mark Neill, Ellen Watkins, Beverly Riola, and Kathy Nusbaum. The four “extra-mural” members were all alumni: Jake McCarthy, St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist; Margaret Nolan, attorney; Dr. Adella Smiley, past president of the St. Louis Board of Education; and Rosemary Woolley, assistant personnel director, Brown Shoe Company.

Members of the Board were divided into six subcommittees, each with a specific goal: Women’s Studies, Hiring and Recruitment, Women Employees, Day Care Center, Charter and Bylaws, and Funding. The slow process of getting acquainted with the broad spectrum of problems that surfaced was cause for frustration and complaints, both among Board members and among the women of the University. To add to the unrest, the Women’s Center on campus was closed suddenly, with inadequate explanation.

In 1976, a Women’s Career Day was presented for the entire campus community. The same year an informal group of graduate students, led by Kae Rowland, formed a Women’s Resources Coordinating Council, as a way to speed up the process. They sponsored a number of programs and introduced the idea of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of SLU women. Their 1976 “Woman of the Year” program was later adopted by the Commission as its signature event.

By December 1978, the lack of recognizable progress, no money, and overworked volunteers led to a meeting with Sister Jeanne O’Laughlin, O.P., executive assistant to University President Edward Drummond, S.J. For the first time, the organization, membership, and leadership of the Board were examined, and a change in purpose and bylaws was recommended. A volunteer committee met throughout the summer of 1979, in preparation for an open conference in September, titled “Issues and Concerns of Women: Future Projections.” The outcome was a change in the Bylaws and Stated Purpose of the Women’s Commission. Volunteers were recruited for the new elected Executive Board.

Within a year, the Commission began to gain visibility and credibility; monthly meetings of the new Board were held, rotating among the three campuses; and a Newsletter was established for distribution to all full-time women employees. Lunch-time programs on a variety of topics of interest to women were held, and classes began in Women’s Studies. When the gavel was passed to a new President in 1983, the Women’s Commission had clarified its identity and purpose, and received promise of a small operating budget from the University. The Second Decade appeared bright, indeed.
Spotlight on Women in Medicine and Science

On October 17, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development at the School of Medicine hosted the second annual Spotlight on Women in Medicine and Science (SWIMS) Symposium. This special event highlighted the career interests and successes of several women faculty.

Susan Rosenthal, Ph.D., vice chair for Faculty Affairs within the Department of Pediatrics and chief of the Division of Child and Adolescent Health at Columbia University Medical Center, was this year’s keynote speaker. Amy Harkins, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacological and physiological sciences; Brigid Holloran-Schwartz, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women’s health; and Carole Vogler, M.D., professor and chair of pathology were featured Saint Louis University School of Medicine Speakers.

2012 Election Sends More Women to Congress than ever Before

When the 113th Congress commences in January of next year, there will be a record number of women representatives present. On Tuesday, Nov. 6, twenty women were elected to Senate and 81 to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2012, there were only 17 women in the Senate. Of the 20 women serving next year, five will be newcomers. In the House, the record number of women previously was 73. In 2013, there will be 19 newcomers among the 81 female representatives serving.

Many other notable firsts for women occurred on November 6. Four states elected women to the U.S. Senate for the first time. There is no longer any state legislative chamber without any women, now that South Carolina elected a women to its State Senate. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) will be the first Hindu-American in Congress, and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) will be the first openly gay person in the U.S. Senate.

Carole Vogler, M.D., receives the H.P. Smith Award for Distinguished Educator

This national award, presented by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, is given to an ASCP Fellow with a distinguished career in pathology and laboratory medicine, embracing education, research, and administration, as well as service to organized pathology.

Calendar of Events

December 4, 2012
Mickey Mouse Monopoly
Racism, Sexism, and Disney Senate Chambers, BSC 256
12 - 1 p.m.

December 6, 2012
YWCA Leader Lunch
Millennium Hotel
11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

December 7, 2012
Women’s Studies Reading Group:
“Women and Their Hair: Seeking Power through Resistance and Accommodation”
MCG 144
12 - 1:30 p.m.

December 13, 2012
Holiday Program
Refectory, DuBourg Hall 157
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

March 22, 2013
40th Anniversary Celebration

April 24, 2013
Women of the Year Luncheon