

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”

-Malala Yousafzai



TO EDUCATE, SUPPORT, AND REACH OUT TO WOMEN ON OUR CAMPUS IN THE  
CONTEXT OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

# The Center for Women's Studies

## Newsletter

### April 2019

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## April-May 2019 Calendar

**Monday, April 1**– UNA reopens.

**Thursday, April 4**– Self Defense Workshop (GUC200 6-7pm)

**Thursday, April 11**– Take Back the Night (Amphitheater 6pm)

**April 16th & 17th**– These Hands Don’t Hurt (GUC 10:30am-1pm)

**Friday, April 19th**– UNA closed.

**Thursday, April 25th**– International Brew (Women’s Center 3-4:30pm)

**Wednesday, May 1** -Last day of classes

**Thursday, May 2** -Study Day

**May 3rd-8th**-Exams

**Saturday, May 11**– Commencement



### The Center for Women’s Studies

663 N. Wood Ave.

Florence, AL 35630

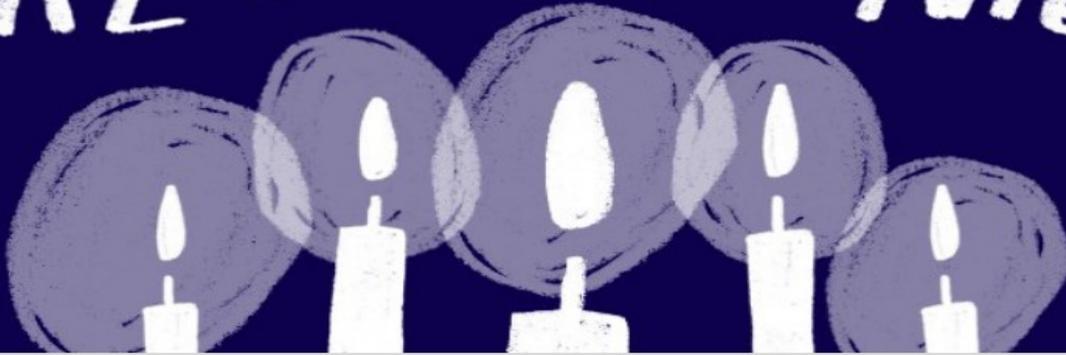
(256) 765 - 6198/4380

#### *Hours of Operation:*

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ekelley1@una.edu

# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



**Join us to honor survivors and victims of sexual assault.**

**Shatter the silence.  
Stop the violence!**

**April 11th**

**6PM**

**UNA Amphitheater**



Office of HOUSING  
and RESIDENCE LIFE

University of NORTH ALABAMA



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## Women in History

### Joanna Harcourt-Smith



Joanna Harcourt-Smith was born on January 13, 1946 in Switzerland. Throughout her lifetime she learned five different languages. She did not enjoy school growing up and she did not fit in well with her family. She battled with an endless cycle of loving life at one point and then wanting to die at another. These mixed emotions led her to write poetry where she let all of her emotions out on paper. As she grew older, she furthered her writing career by publishing her work. Along with poetry, she also became a psychedelic activist and founder of Future Primitive Podcasting. In her younger years, Harcourt-Smith lived with the Rolling Stones in France and hung out with playboy Gunter Sachs, Salvador Dali, and Aga Khan until she met the love of her life, Timothy Leary. These wild stories of her youth were told in her book: *Tripping the Bardo with Timothy Leary: My Psychedelic Love Story*. She met Leary, philosopher and Harvard Psychologist, while he was a fugitive in Europe, and then they moved to Afghanistan together. They were captured in Afghanistan and sent to California. Leary was then sent to prison for four years for possession of marijuana while Harcourt-Smith advocated for his release the entire time. She published six books that he wrote while in prison. After he was released, they were both sent into the witness protection program. They broke up soon after all of this happened and Harcourt-Smith moved to the Caribbean where she sailed everyday. She later moved back to the U.S. where she committed to sobriety and became a chef in Philadelphia. She was featured in the movie: *Dying to Know* which is a documentary about Leary and his friend's explorations and relationships. Harcourt-Smith went on to be the author of several articles published in magazines: *Reality Sandwich*. She puts much of her efforts today into advocating for a healthier planet.



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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Evins Wall, one of the interns at the Women's Center, wrote this piece.

## Child Abuse Prevention

By: Evins Wall

Child Abuse Prevention Month is all about taking action within your community to promote child and family well being. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe nurturing environment, but unfortunately that is not always the case. In 2017, 28 children in Alabama were reported dead due to child abuse. In Lauderdale County alone, there are about 250 children put in foster care every month due to child abuse/neglect. Fortunately, there are multiple different resources in this area that work to keep these children safe and prevent these issues from ever happening again. To name one, there is the Cramer Children's Center located on East Tennessee Street. They help children who have experienced some kind of abuse get the help they need whether it is counseling or a hand to hold throughout the legal process. Shoals CASA is another resource located on Jackson Court in Sheffield, Alabama. They work directly with child welfare to make sure that if a child returns to his/her family, they are being treated fairly. There is DHR which helps children with just about everything from finding a foster home to creating a safety plan to ensure they are never hurt again. They teach training classes to parents and guardians on how to be a good parent. These are just a handful of the many resources that our area offers for children and young adults who have been abused.

There are also multiple ways you, as an individual, can help in your community. All of the organizations I mentioned above greatly appreciate volunteers. Some even offer internships which allows you to help out while getting experience in the field. Another very important thing is reporting! If you or anyone you know believes that a child may be being abused you should always report it. All child protective services allow you to report anonymously so that you are not putting yourself in any danger. Some other simple tips that go a long way in helping prevent child abuse are: help out family members or neighbors with children. Being a parent is not easy and everyone needs a break every now and then. Respect and listen to kids. You never know what they may be going through at home and listening to them can make a huge difference in getting them the help they need. Most importantly, get involved. Help establish parent groups in the community, promote programs in schools, and volunteer and donate to groups that help those affected by child abuse. No matter how big or small an act you can do, there is a child's life that will be changed because of it.



## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Bonnie Smith

Surveying the treatment of sexual assault cases both broadcasted and private, it is clear that the importance of advocacy and awareness is as urgent as ever. Over the course of the last year, survivors have watched gross mistreatment of public cases: Brett Kavanaugh's hearing to be a Supreme Court Justice, R. Kelley's intentionally public outrage at his accusations despite an overwhelming amount of evidence in support of his conviction, and the multiple allegations against President Donald Trump being swept completely under the rug. The nation and the bulk of its media has sent a message to sexual assault survivors: if you're thinking about speaking up, don't bother.

However, we have a built-in opportunity to educate ourselves and others, as well as empower those survivors. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is a wonderful chance to learn more about consent and become an increasingly active advocate for survivors locally, as well as for changes in legislation.

Most of all, survivors want to be believed. The atmosphere surrounding survivors is one of skepticism. In reality, cross examination should be left up to the courtroom. In other words, one should not interrogate survivors about certain irrelevant details of their assault. Questions like 'What were you wearing?', 'How much did you drink?', and 'Did you fight back?' are not only nosy and insensitive, but could induce incredible emotional distress for the survivor. The unfortunate truth is that most people would not be so invasive about the details of other crimes committed against an individual.

In fact, the likelihood of witnessing an assault is higher on a campus than most other establishments. If one were to encounter a situation in which they witnessed or were made aware of a sexual assault, first make sure the survivor is safe and, with the permission of the survivor, contact authorities like Campus Police (256-765-4357), Local Police (256-760-6500), One Place of the Shoals (256-284-7600), or in case of an emergency, for which sexual assault definitely qualifies, 911. Remember, if you or anyone in this situation (excluding the alleged assailant) is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, it will not be held against you as part of UNA's Good Samaritan Policy.

If you find yourself in a situation in which you have just been sexually assaulted, remember to stay as calm as possible. Do not change clothes, shower, or wash the site of the assault before contacting authorities. For the best results, a rape kit should be performed within 72 hours of the assault.

While it is earth-shatteringly painful to go through an assault, remember that you still hold immeasurable value and that, though it may be hard to believe, there are so many more people who want to help you rather than hurt you.

# Resources Available at The Women's Center:

- . **Pride's Pantry of Personal Care Items**
- . **Library**
- . **Bottled Water**
- . **Lactation Room**
- . **Couches & Blankets**
- . **Computers**
- . **Free Printing**
- . **Events**
- . **Study Room**
- . **Coffee & Conversation**



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## Internally Speaking

Hi everyone! It's hard to believe that it's almost summer. I hope everyone's semester went just as you hoped it would. I'm having some bittersweet feelings as I am coming up on my time to say goodbye as intern at the Women's Center. On top of that, it is finally starting to seem real that I only have 2 semesters left at UNA before I graduate. In the past, all I ever seemed to think when I was up at 2 in the morning studying was how ready to graduate I was, but now that I'm almost there, I'm not so sure anymore. My time at UNA has been all that I dreamed it would be and more, and a big part of this has to do with the Women's Center. I couldn't have done it without Ms.Emily's Starbucks espresso coffee and her smiling face waiting for me every morning. I couldn't have done it without Dr. Rieff's inspiring lectures that kept me striving to be a stronger, more outspoken woman for those who can't be. I couldn't have done it without all of the pep talks from Bonnie or the ongoing texts to Rosie when I had no idea what I was doing (Oh, and I probably couldn't have done it without Chick-Fil-A milkshakes either.) But, most importantly, I couldn't have done it without you guys. In fact, without all the students and staff that support the Women's Center, we wouldn't be here and so I want to thank all of you for one of the best things UNA has allowed me to be a part of. Don't get me wrong, I may be saying my sappy goodbyes as intern, but you will be able to find me on the little red couch at the Women's Center up until the day they make me leave. So come by and see what it's all about. The Center for Women Studies has so much to offer, I know that because I've seen it first hand. Pride's Pantry has everything from hair-spray to toothbrushes for anyone that needs it. The library has shelves upon shelves of inspiring books that may even come in handy for a research paper or class discussion. Most importantly, our door is open to anyone and the people waiting inside are the most kind and genuine people you'll ever meet. Although I will dearly miss being the intern, I am so honored that I got the opportunity to be a part of something so great, and I hope you guys see how great it is too.

Sincerely,

Evins Wall

The Center for Women Studies and the Office of International Affairs invites you to our annual celebration!

# INTERNATIONAL BREW

Thursday, April 25th  
UNA Women's Center  
3:00-4:30pm



ENJOY INTERNATIONAL COFFEES, TEAS,  
AND DESSERTS.



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**The Office of  
International  
Affairs**

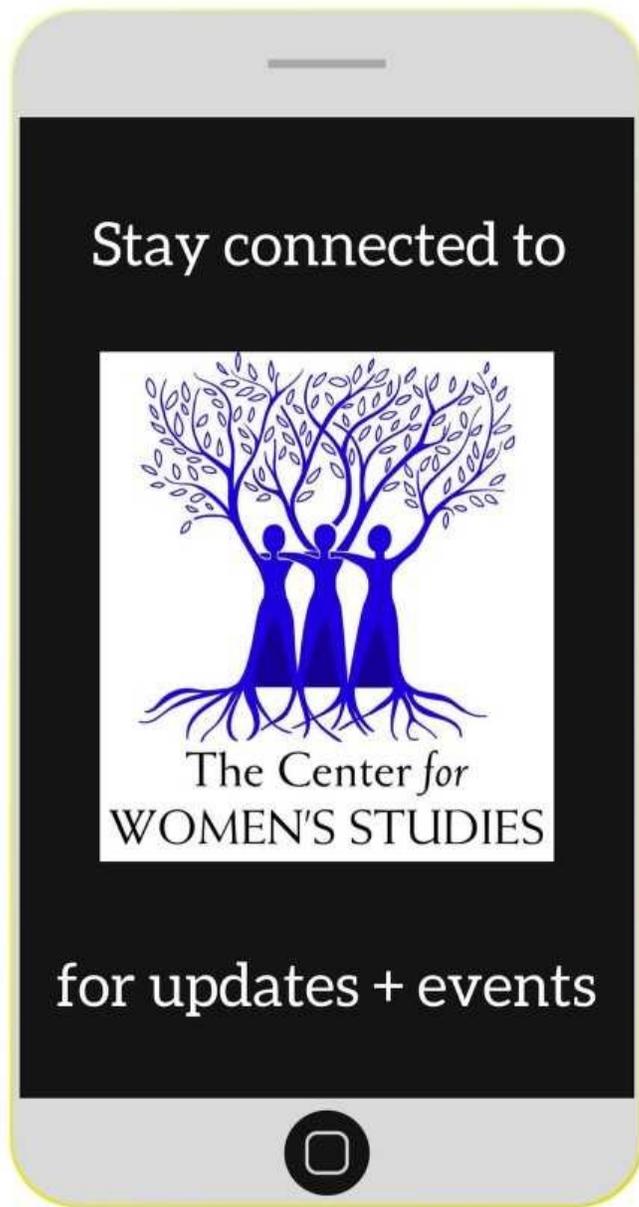
## Coordinator's Notes

Spring is really here. The trees have budded, some flowers have already bloomed, I have a good crop of parsley ready to cut, and everyone's sneezing! In my garden the daffodils have finished with their blossoms, the iris leaves are close to a foot tall, and the hosta is just above ground. It's as if all the plants that we thought died off in the winter are suddenly reborn and are peaking out of the earth, checking to see if it's really safe to come out. Spring is indeed a time of new beginnings, and, of course, that makes me think of all our students about to graduate and begin their adult lives. From everyone at the Women's Center, we wish you safe travels as you begin your journey.

We have several events coming up in April that I hope you'll join in. On April 4th we are hosting a self-defense workshop appropriate for anyone of any gender over the age of 12. One week later, on April 11th is our annual Take Back the Night observance. We'll be partnering with HRL for this event. This year we are pleased to have Leah Heathcoat of SafePlace as our speaker. She'll talk about sexual assault and domestic violence, and Dr. Carl Gebhardt will lead us in the candle lighting. April 15th is Equal Pay Day this year which means that is the day it takes American women to catch up with the wages earned by American men in 2018. That fact is a real eye-opener for many people. We'll be in the GUC that day with information on the wage gap. On April 16th and 17th we'll be back in the GUC asking everyone to pledge their hands against violence by making a handprint on our banner. Finally, on April 25th we'll have our annual end of year party, the International Brew, partnering with International Affairs, and serving international coffees, teas, and desserts. Everyone's welcome!

That's the run down for the rest of the year. Of course, we're here all summer should you need us. Once again, congratulations to the upcoming graduates. Thanks, everyone, for another great year!

*Family*



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