

Women's Studies at FSU E-Newsletter

February 2020

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1. DECLARE YOUR MINOR

The minor in Women's Studies is only 18 credits and allows students with a passion for feminist issues to explore herstories, intersectionality, Black feminist thought, Latina feminism(s), as well as women and art, music, philosophy, politics, health, and more.

To declare your minor, simply email Dr. Earles at jearles@frostburg.edu and include your student number so that you can be officially registered.

You can also visit Dr. Earles in 7 American, Room 302 (next to the Veterans Center). Once you have officially declared a Women's Studies minor, it will appear on your official records and in PAWS, which will assist both you and your major advisor in planning your coursework.

Feminism is about connecting the personal with the political and is open to ALL genders!

BTW... Follow us on Twitter [@fsuwmst](https://twitter.com/fsuwmst) and Facebook [/WMSTFrostburg](https://www.facebook.com/WMSTFrostburg)

2. Calendar

AAUW – American Association of University Women

What: Learn more about the FSU Women’s Studies student organization

When: February 5, time TBD

Where: TBD

Contact: President Eleanor Doucette at eadoucette0@frostburg.edu

SPECTRUM

What: Learn more about the FSU LGBTQ+ student organization.

When: February 6, starting at 7 p.m.

Where: LIB 237

Contact: President Carlee Garitty at ccgaritty0@frostburg.edu

3. WMST Spring 2020 Graduates

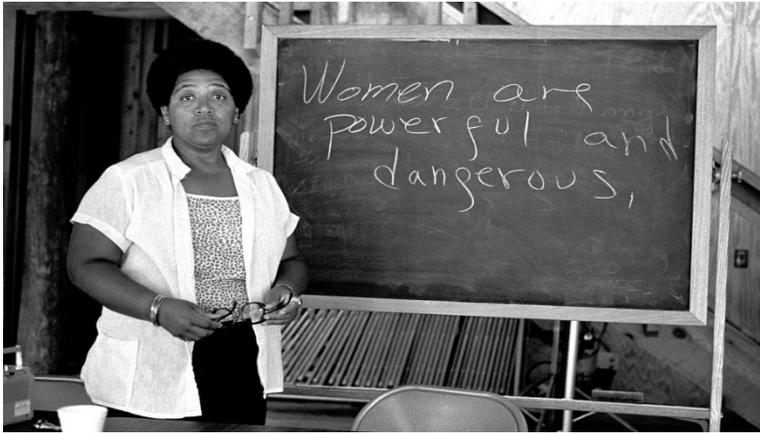
With five Women’s Studies minors ready to graduate this semester, we certainly have cause to celebrate! Please join me in congratulating the following students who are sure to continue their commitment to feminist scholarship and activism in their future endeavors.

- **Jessica Cebula**
 - **Angela Lowry**
 - **Michela Pusterla**
 - **Jennifer Cedillo**
 - **Kaitlyn Malinowski**
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4. DID YOU KNOW?

February is Black History Month! Let’s honor the Black women who birthed the movements

Naming the Black women who have given birth to the movements that are so vital to social justice and our collective well-being is a necessary step toward truly celebrating Black excellence and understanding the intersections of gender and race.



Black History Month is a sacred time when we come together to celebrate the those who have worked hard to create resources to uplift Black communities. But as much as we center the importance of these movements, we often do so at the expense of the people who create them. That often leaves Black women unacknowledged for creating so many resources that many people love and value.

SisterSong

Founded in 1997, SisterSong created the term “reproductive justice” to address the inequalities in reproductive access and support that women of color face. Defining reproductive justice as “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities,” SisterSong has worked in the Southern United States to fight states’ invasive abortion bill laws, which further restrict access to abortions.

The Combahee River Collective

Of course, reproductive justice wouldn’t exist without the larger movement of feminism. But historically, mainstream feminism has left out those who have existed at the margins: Black, queer, disabled, elderly, working class. Many Black women found themselves moving into their own subgroupings, including Black feminism and womanism.

The Combahee River Collective was a Black lesbian feminist group active in Boston from 1974 to 1980. The collective played a vital role in bringing to light mainstream feminism’s lack of inclusivity at the height of second-wave feminism. It is also best known for developing the [Combahee River Collective Statement](#), addressing the history of contemporary Black feminism and centering identity within political organizing and social theory.

Audre Lorde and Self-Care

But it’s not just Black-women-led movements that have remained undervalued in the public eye. Individual Black women have birthed movements, phrases, and practices that have become part of the mainstream dialogue. One important example of this is writer Audre Lorde’s legacy, and how her development of the concept of “self-care” has been turned into a massive marketing tactic. But Lorde intentions in talking about self-care (“[Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare](#)”) weren’t rooted in the desire to take bubble baths for the luxury aesthetics of it but, rather, to center her mental well-being as a Black lesbian with a long-term illness.

Tarana Burke and the Me Too Movement

Of course, one of the most public examples of how important it is to give Black women credit for the movements they create is activist Tarana Burke. Since 2006, Burke has led the [Me Too movement](#) to increase awareness of sexual violence against Black girls and women. In 2017 the #MeToo hashtag brought a global spotlight to the movement, but Burke's original focus was transformed into sexual harassment, abuse and assault in society more broadly, especially in the wake of the many accusations against Hollywood's Harvey Weinstein.

From SisterSong to the Combahee River Collective, from Audre Lorde to Tarana Burke, we must ensure that the Black women behind the movements that are vital to our understanding of sexuality and liberation are cited and credited. But the work is not done. We also need to make sure that publicly crediting these Black women becomes routine because, in light of the violence and discrimination that Black women face, these movements are some of the few ways that they will gain public acceptance. It's time that we move Black women from behind the curtains and into the spotlight, celebrating them for their commitment to change and to centering those that need change most. Here are "[Six Simple Ways White Women Can Be Feminist Allies to Black Communities](#)."

5. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The Women's Studies program is actively organizing a student chapter of the national organization, AAUW. While student organizations take AAUW's mission to the next level by [raising funds for their organization](#) and planning feminist campus events, they also gain valuable experience and see direct results on their campuses! AAUW student organization members can:

- [Boost their résumés](#) with critical leadership experience
- Gain networking opportunities through [AAUW's leadership programs](#)
- Get [AAUW swag](#) to recruit other student members
- Receive resources and staff support to [create campus programming](#)
- Join a global network of more than 170,000 members and supporters

The best part? Your involvement with AAUW doesn't stop after you graduate! AAUW helps women [continue their education](#) and [prepares them for the workforce](#). The global support network you build with your AAUW student organization lasts a lifetime.

Those interested students should contact Eleanor Doucette at eadoucette0@frostburg.edu.

SPECTRUM

Connect with FSU's LGBTQ student organization on Twitter [@spectrumfsu](https://twitter.com/spectrumfsu). The Club strives to provide a safe space for everyone on campus, to promote equality for everyone, and to make a positive impact on our community for LGBTQ students, faculty, and youths.

For more information, contact Carlee Garitty at ccgaritty0@frostburg.edu

6. THE TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST

Making Social Media Work for Feminists

Online activism offers the possibility to empower marginalized voices and to open up the possibility of social change. When coordinating action, Twitter is valuable as it empowers activist groups and participants to create an ongoing and often immediate communication channel that connects folks across the globe.

But, how can we make Twitter work most effectively for us?

Here is an article by feminist Samukelisiwe Mabaso that describes 10 ways to make Twitter work for feminism. Enjoy!

****If you would prefer not to receive these periodic updates and announcements please email Dr. Earles at jlearles@frostburg.edu to be removed from the list****