

THE

Volume 1, Issue 1

SPECULUM ✂

Newsletter of The F-W.O.R.D. (Feminists: Women Obtaining Rights & Diversity)



THE F W.O.R.D.

Spring 2016 Events Recap: Learn what happened during the semester.

An Evening with Sonia Sotomayor: The Latina Justice speaks at RU.

Why Feminism is for Everyone: Understanding the movement.

Meet the E-Board: Who we are and what we do.

Who We Are & What We Do



Allison Jamauca
President

In 2015, I helped found and became the current President of The F-WOR.D. My primary responsibilities range from being a spokesperson for the club, developing creative events for the semester with the board, and ultimately looking to engage the student body in our mission! Serving as a catalyst for change, the F-WOR.D. has helped me grow and ultimately inspire me to pursue a degree in political science (with a women's studies minor, of course).



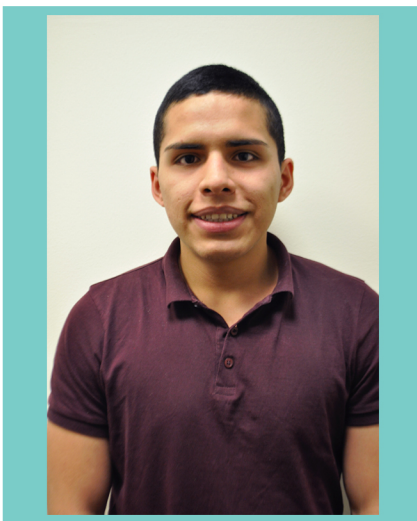
Layla Shatursun
Vice President

As Vice President, I am the second in command and I assist the president of the club. One of my primary tasks is coordinating and managing the events as well as promoting, recruiting, and interviewing potential F-WOR.D. members. I also act as a spokesperson and work closely with other clubs and their members. I am extremely grateful with our work this semester and I would like to thank everyone involved. My next step includes transferring to Rutgers, majoring in Public Health, and holding a minor in women and gender studies.



Lexi Horvath
Secretary

This semester I was in charge of keeping general members, as well as the E-Board, up to date with the club's activities, events, and deadlines. I am also responsible for keeping the club's minutes, and managing channels of communication between the club and areas such as Student Life. I led multiple general meetings and took part in the club's bake sale fundraiser for the organization Women for Women International. I am an avid music-lover and concertgoer who, upon transferring in 2017, plans on majoring in art history.



Jonathan Avila
Treasurer

As treasurer of the F-WOR.D, my job is to establish a sense of organization in regards to budgeting decisions that are made within the club. Another component of my time as treasurer is the ability to produce fundraising ideas. This Spring, I had the opportunity to research different organizations that would benefit the most from our help and then work along the rest of the club in order to accomplish our goals. We successfully met our objectives for the semester and we are proud of the legacy we are leaving behind.



Patricia Budiman
Event Coordinator

My job is to ensure that all of the events go smoothly, as well as keep an eye out for things to do outside of school like volunteer work or any activities that pertain to the F-WOR.D's mission and message. This semester, our team organized events around the BCC campus, such as our Body Talk event, our Women of Color and Women of Religion events, and several more fundraisers and mixers. I'm a global studies major, and I hope to use my passion for equality and action to make change.



Fernanda Jimenez
Editor-In-Chief

As the Editor-In-Chief, this semester I co-created the newsletter and I was able to bring my creative vision to the club. My responsibilities include holding weekly meetings with writers, choosing and creating content, editing, designing the newsletter's layout and making sure that articles are submitted in a timely manner. I am currently a cinema studies major who is planning to transfer to a film school in order to become a filmmaker that can change people's perceptions (including gender stereotypes and expectations).

Spring 2016: Campus Events Recap

March 23rd - Women of Color Event

This semester, the F-W.O.R.D. organized a mixer event where celebrating women of color was the top priority. Clubs were encouraged to attend and bring dishes that celebrated the amazing diversity we have here at BCC. President Allison Jamauca gave a presentation about the importance of intersectionality and about checking our privileges. We had a quirky photobooth and a bunch of other interactive activities. Everyone had a great time as we celebrated amazing WOC ranging from Frida Kahlo to Laverne Cox.

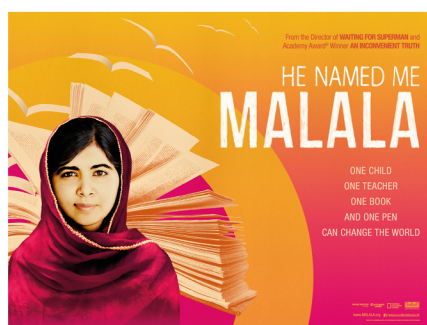


March 22nd & April 4th - Bake Sale

On the days of March 22nd and April 4th, we at the F-W.O.R.D. club had a bake sale fundraiser to support the Women for Women organization. This organization supports women in war-stricken areas and provides them with support so that they can earn and save money, as well as hold leadership positions in their local communities. The F-W.O.R.D. Club is proud to have reached the goal for the year and we are hoping to meet our sponsoree soon!

March 30th - WHM Guest Speaker

Greta Gooden Brown is a superior court judge in Passaic County. After graduating with honors in Essex County College, she continued her education in Douglass College (part of Rutgers) and then she got her J.D. at Rutgers School of Law. At the event, she made the audience look upon an attendee and make a judgment based on their appearance. This demonstrated the implicit biases many of us hold, several of which negatively impact women. Brown emphasized that our biases should be unlearned as they provide no benefit for either gender. The important points touched upon at the event must be put in practice, not just by the judicial system, but ultimately by average citizens who hold the power to combat gender discrimination. When Brown was asked about how to deal with prejudice, she responded and ended her speech with, "Don't get mad. Don't get even. Get ahead."



April 19th - Malala Screening

On April 19th, The F-W.O.R.D. organized a screening of the documentary about Malala Yousafzai's life journey titled *He Named Me Malala*. The film explores her life and struggles as well as her activism regarding female education. The screening was followed by a discussion, which was very enlightening and inspiring, much like Malala's life itself. We highly encourage you to check out <https://www.malala.org/students> for more ways to get involved in advocating for girls' education worldwide!

Current Affairs

An Evening With Sotomayor

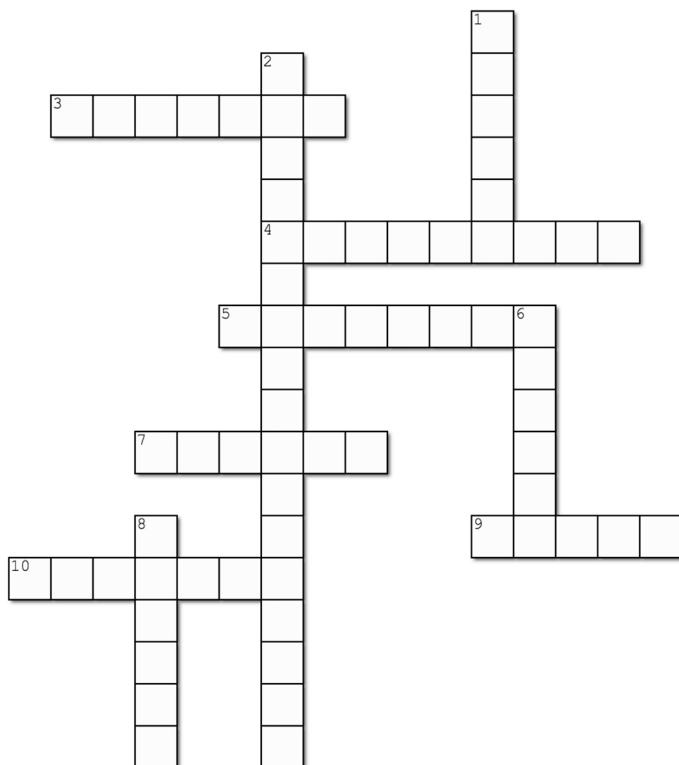
by Allison Jamauca

On Monday April 11th, I had the honor of seeing the first Latina Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speak at Rutgers University located in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Princeton and Yale graduate spoke to a stadium full of alumni who were looking to learn about her journey in becoming a Supreme Court Justice. Sotomayor humbly explained that she “always kept her head in the books” and that she never became “distracted from her academic goals.” The event was incredibly engaging, where Sonia Sotomayor walked up stadium aisles shaking hands with numerous alumni that reached farther than the eye could see.

As a first generation Latina, attending Sonia Sotomayor’s event was a life changing experience. Representation of women in leadership positions encourages individuals like myself to believe I can achieve the same and more. Justice Sotomayor encouraged students to hold leadership positions, focus intently on their studies, and major in fields they were passionate about. Sotomayor followed this point by stating, “My mother would have liked if I were a journalist, but imagine if I followed my mother’s wishes- I would not have been the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.” Ultimately, the inspirational event validated that dreams were achievable, no matter how grandiose, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor served as living proof.



Test Your Feminist Knowledge!



Across

3. Famous suffragette
4. Underground feminist hardcore punk movement that started in the early 90s
5. The advocacy of women’s rights on the ground of political, social and economic equality to men
7. Prejudice, discrimination, or stereotyping based on one’s sex
9. Famous Mexican painter and feminist icon
10. Daughter of famous writer Alice Walker

Down

1. The range of characteristics pertaining to masculinity and femininity; different from biological sex
2. Concept used in critical theories to describe the ways in which oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) are interconnected
6. Activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner
8. Feminist wave that started in the early 60s

Featured Articles

Women in Religion with Prof. Lyden

by Laura Gonzalez

On April 14th, Professor Lyden lead a panel about Women in Religion. As the room filled up with students, Professor Lyden eagerly began prompting us with thought provoking questions. We began with "Why is there patriarchy?" After a minute of deep thought, the conversation erupted around the room. We found the answer by analyzing the past. Before, men owned property and inheritance, and they wished to pass it along to their offspring. Their property and inheritance was extremely important to them because it was associated to who they were and it would be a form to pass on their legacy. However, how could they be 100% sure that the offspring was theirs?

That topic led to the core of the conversation: Why is there patriarchy in religion? Professor Lyden began to explain to us a story from the Genesis 15 called the "Lord's Covenant with God" (a scripture found in both the Bible and the Torah). God tells Abraham that he will make him prosperous with many descendants. One of the big moments in this conversation is when God tells him that, "No stranger is going to inherit your property; your son is going to live on through you, and he is going to inherit your property."

The importance of that statement is that it shows one way of dealing with what Professor Lyden called a "fundamental anxiety" that religion, in general, tries to deal with. The anxiety is that people are petrified of dying and of what will become of their memory in the future. This is why we shouldn't be surprised that religion is patriarchal since it is trying to deal with the same thing we're all worried about: death and what will become of us.

One then has to ask themselves: is there patriarchy in religion because culture developed this way or is religion patriarchal in its root? Some might ask, "Does God want it to be this way?" That's why it's extremely difficult to get people to see things in a different context; they don't want to go against God's plan. Nonetheless, there's evidence that not every culture is patriarchal. For example, Native American tribes don't have a patriarchal culture, and hunter-gathers in the past didn't either. This is probably due to the fact that they had to move from place to place often, so they didn't really have much inheritance or property. Ultimately, there is still hope that there will be some changes of women's position in religion. Simply becoming educated on the subject, and sharing your awareness can help women not only in religion, but in all sectors of society.



Why Feminism Is For Everyone

by Fernanda Jimenez

"Feminist thinking teaches us all, especially, how to love justice and freedom in ways that foster and affirm life." -bell hooks

If Merriam-Webster defines feminism as the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes, then why is it still misunderstood today? Is it because of a lack of understanding of the definition or because it is often associated with a small group of women (see: radical feminism in the 1960s)?

While many people often argue that feminism is irrelevant in this day and age because women, theoretically, have the same rights as men, we must remember that this applies almost exclusively to Western and developed countries. Even if we only focus on the West, stereotypes and societal expectations based on gender are still perpetuated and are harmful to women and men alike. For instance, most men are told at a very young age that they need to be tough and aggressive, and that displaying sadness or regret is wrong and shameful because it is associated with the opposite sex. By fighting against the oppression of women, feminism also seeks to question the traditional system of gender roles. That archaic system includes ideas of toxic masculinity, so in a way, feminism also helps men.

In addition to being beneficial to men, when feminism is intersectional, i.e., when it considers different systems of oppression including race, ability, social class, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, among others, it is actually a unifying movement. In other words, it looks to include all women regardless of differences between one another and it also makes us think about our own privileges, which provides us with empathy and understanding of others. These are important ideas that need to be emphasized in all areas of life, especially when we think about fighting against any kind of discrimination and oppression.

So, even when women's issues are the movement's main point of focus, many other different groups of people are affected in a positive way by it, which is why feminism is a movement that can be supported by anyone regardless of race, class, and yes, even sex!



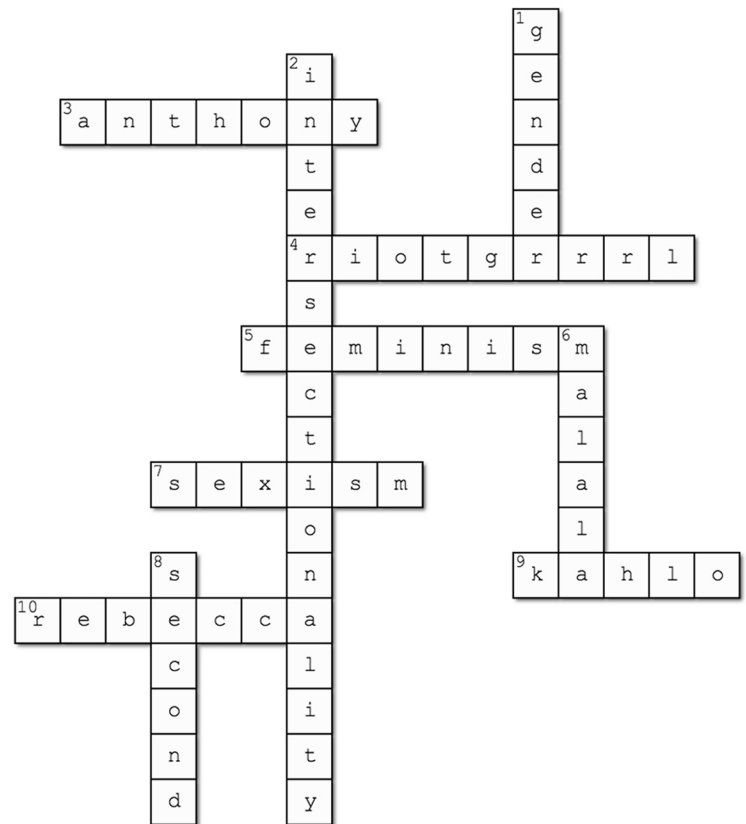
Answer Key

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The Speculum's Team:

Editor-In-Chief

Fernanda Jimenez

Contributing Writers

Allison Jamauca

Laura Gonzalez

Nathalie Jara

Lexi Horvath



Want to contribute?

If you are passionate about writing or gender equality and want to be published, contact the F-W.O.R.D.'s newsletter team at thespeculumfword@gmail.com!