

**Madison Caucus for Gender Equality
Business Meeting Minutes
Madison Union 404
April 3, 2017**

Elect New Steering Committee Member

An election was held for the vacant seat on the steering committee. Congratulations to Jenny Toth!

Announce Professional Development Fund recipients

Congratulations to Lucy Malenke and Kathleen Sensabaugh!

Lucy will use the MCGE professional development grant to help bring to JMU representatives of the international nonprofit Narrative 4, whose mission is to foster “empathy by breaking down barriers and shattering stereotypes through the exchange of stories across the world.” Narrative 4’s representatives will conduct a certification workshop for 30-50 faculty, staff, students, and Harrisonburg community members who want to become “story exchange” facilitators. Please contact Lucy if you’re interested in participating.

Kathleen will use her award to attend the 2017 Pennsylvania Conference for Women in Philadelphia, PA. This conference is designed to engage in issues at the intersections of womanhood and professional life including topics relating to professional leadership, gender equity, and gender advocacy. In addition, Ms. Sensabaugh will be using the fund to provide an opportunity for a local high school student to participate in the Young Women’s Program part of the conference.

Read more about the recipients and their awards [here](#).

Update on Dominion Lecture

Kathy asked the Dominion Lecture committee to vote on top choices after suggestions were made by Caucus members. Kimberlé Crenshaw is the top choice. She is an American civil rights advocate and a leading scholar of critical race theory. She is a full professor at the UCLA School of Law and Columbia Law School, where she specializes in race and gender issues. She is known for the introduction and development of intersectional theory, the study of how overlapping or *intersecting* social identities, particularly *minority* identities, relate to systems and structures of oppression, domination, or discrimination. She has written several books.

We hope to schedule the lecture in mid-September. Kristi will email Ms. Crenshaw this week to see if she’s interested in speaking at JMU.

Update on allyship

Kristen Shrewsbury gave an update on allyship. A committee has been developed for this purpose. She is the chair. The Caucus has been working on it since the fall and has met with several individuals at JMU (Gail Napora, James Robinson, Amy Sirocky-Meck) and in the community (Tim Ruebke). We plan to meet with Marilou Johnson before the semester ends.

The purpose of the group is to connect as an ally and serve as a resource. The mission is to listen actively and compassionately to constituent concerns in order to assist in connecting the individual to the host of options available for recourse at JMU. We hope to start offering allyship in the fall.

Other business

The *Training Rules* film screening has been postponed until the fall. The library has ordered the DVD and secured the rights to show the film. Jennifer Harris, featured in the film, will be present after the screening for a Q&A/discussion. She has been notified that we're moving the event to fall, possibly mid-late October.

The film focuses on the women's basketball program at Pennsylvania State University under head coach Rene Portland and her policy of discrimination on her players based on their sexual orientation over a 27-year period as coach of the university's basketball program, particularly from the 1980s to the late 1990s.

Training Rules was suggested to us by Sue Rankin, 2016 Dominion lecturer. Jennifer Harris, featured in the film, later transferred to JMU to play basketball and majored in Psychology.

Upcoming Events

Happy Hour

Thurs., April 13, 2017

5:00-?

Bella Luna, 80 W. Water Street, Harrisonburg

Spring Social

Thurs., April 20, 2017

5:00-7:00pm

Tom Contos' apartment (above Ruby's Arcade), 165 S. Main, Harrisonburg

Happy Hour

Thurs., April 27, 2017

5:00-?

Bella Luna, 80 W. Water Street, Harrisonburg