Susan B. Anthony Center

Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner

Stanton/Anthony Conversations

Call to Action Conference

Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner

2014 Annual Report

The Susan B. Anthony Center

University of Rochester

June 2014
Welcome from the
Susan B. Anthony Center Staff

In the second year of new leadership and staff, the Center was busy! John Cullen joined our team as Coordinator of Outreach and the Center became engaged in a few more projects this year. We continue to focus on translating science to improve the lives of others, especially those who are disenfranchised. In addition to our traditional events, the Stanton/Anthony Conversations (our Meliora Weekend dialogue), our Legacy Dinner and awards celebration, we also partnered with other offices across the campus to spread the word regarding gender equality and the need to reach policy makers.

Our two major projects, focus groups exploring the current definition of feminism and our Letters Project, reading letters from and to Susan B. Anthony, continue to inspire us that our current direction is on target. We are partnering on projects overseas as well, to improve the health and safety of women and children by partnering with the World Health Organization and ASPIRE.

The University of Rochester is uniquely positioned to create change as it hosts scientists that are working hard to improve the lives of those who suffer, not just from medical conditions but life’s hardships such as bias, discrimination and a lack of basic needs to sustain life. We have held events for alumni, parents and students to gather and create a culture of change. Together, we cannot fail.

It is through such partnerships that we continue to look forward to the next academic year, full of possibilities to move science into policy to promote equality for all.
Our LGBT Initiatives

The Center’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) initiative began in March 2014 with the addition of John Cullen, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor of Surgery, who works one day per week as the Coordinator of Outreach. John has a strong commitment to human rights, social justice, and diversity. He is chair of the Pride Alliance at the University of Rochester and has just completed an LGBT Health Policy and Practice Graduate Certificate Program at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Within the last 2 months, John has worked with multiple organizations, both on campus and in the Rochester community, to help address many of the social injustice issues and health care disparities that are faced by the LGBT community.

Even within the LGBT community, some individuals remain marginalized and face greater adversity than many of their fellow community members. These individuals include the transgender community that has gone from being on the frontlines during the fight for LGBT rights in the Stonewall era, to the sidelines where they are still waiting for equality. John has been working with both Human Resources and University Health Service to review health benefits plans for employees and students, and remove the exclusions that prohibit any transgender employee or student receiving treatment that is deemed a medical necessity by the American Medical Association. As a result of these discussions, students will be offered gender transition-related coverage beginning the 2014-2015 academic year, and beginning January 1st, 2015, the University will add transgender health care benefits for employees and their families enrolled in University health care plans. John has also partnered with the Equal Opportunity Compliance Office, Human Resources and the University Intercessor to review and revise the ‘Gender Transition Guidelines’ for employees at the University. This mission will continue with the development and implementation of ‘Gender Transition Guidelines’ for students. At our second annual Sexual Assault Prevention conference in April, John co-presented a workshop on ‘What the Numbers Say’ and discussed LGBT sexual assault on college campuses, a problem that is often overlooked. He also co-facilitated ‘Safe Space II training: inclusion practices for allies,’ an initiative intended to create a safer and freer environment for all members of the University community.

The HealthyPeople 2020 Report states that eliminating LGBT health disparities and enhancing efforts to improve LGBT health will lead to reductions in disease transmission and progression, increased mental and physical well-being and an overall reduction in health care costs system. John has been working with the URSMOD Office for Diversity, the School of Nursing and University Health Service on planning an LGBT healthcare conference that is scheduled to take place on April 24th, 2015. In addition, with these partners, he also hosted a screening of the movie, ‘Gen Silent,’ which addresses the health care disparities faced by the aging LGBT population, and this was followed by a discussion on ways in which health care professionals can reduce these challenges.
To help our community better understand the challenges faced by both LGBT patients and the professionals that care for them, John participated in a local ‘Can We Talk’ workshop that was facilitated by Trillium Health and the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. He is currently working with Human Resources and the Chief Operating Officer of Strong Memorial Hospital to ensure that all criteria are met so that the hospital can again be designated a leader in LGBT Health Care Equality by the Human Rights Campaign.

The University of Rochester has strong ties to the LGBT community as the birthplace of both the ‘Gay Liberation Front’, which eventually became the Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, and the ‘Empty Closet’, the oldest LGBT newspaper in the country. This important role that the University played in the development of an LGBT community in the Rochester area has recently been highlighted in the documentary movie ‘Shoulders to Stand On’ that celebrates the many stories and achievements of Rochester’s LGBT community. The Center co-hosted a screening of this movie on campus during LGBT month, and John was a panel member for the discussion of the movie and current LGBT issues. Additionally, he attended a University of Rochester LGBT alumni event at the Human Rights Campaign Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he discussed the LGBT climate at the University and also introduced Evelyn Bailey, the executive producer of ‘Shoulders to Stand On.’
The Center recruited University staff, faculty, and students to walk in the 2014 Rochester Pride Parade. Over 100 people walked in the parade wearing University of Rochester tee shirts in one of the school’s signature colors, dandelion yellow. The groups matching tee shirts won the University the Pride Parade’s Ruby Slipper Award for the most imaginative depiction of the 2014 parade theme, Unmask Your True Colors, by a walking unit. The award is pictured here.
The Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner is held annually in early February to celebrate the birthday of Susan B. Anthony, honor her legacy, and celebrate the achievements of contemporary women. Seven awards were presented to eight winners during the dinner. This year’s winners are:

**Fannie Bigelow Prize**

The Fannie Bigelow Prize is given in honor of Mrs. Bigelow, a friend of Susan B. Anthony’s, and an advocate for Rochester’s women and children. This prize is given to an undergraduate woman who has demonstrated her “individuality, her ability to use sound judgment to form and express her own opinions, and a conviction that leads her to express those opinions fearlessly.” The award winner will also join in co-curricular activities because of her sincere belief in the value of those activities to the college community.

This year’s recipient was **Fatima Bawany**. Fatima double majors in religion and biology. She has a passion for learning about and addressing diversity issues in the Rochester community. She has been actively involved in the interfaith community and the refugee community in Rochester for several years. She has organized interfaith programs for high school and college youth, including the annual Global Citizenship Conference at Nazareth College, and the Students’ Association for Interfaith Cooperation here at UR. In 2013, she received the David Projects for Peace Fellowship to organize the Voices of Hope summer program for local refugee youth, in which she worked with the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence to help the youth develop skills to address challenges in their lives.
2014 Legacy Award Winners

Jane R. Plitt Award

The Jane R. Plitt Award, established in 1998 in the name of one of Rochester’s leading women, is given to a woman undergraduate who displays exceptional leadership and community service on behalf of women. The student must also demonstrate commitment to furthering the rights of women through her activities and involvements.

This year’s recipient was Brianna Isaacson. Brianna is a resident of Fairport, New York and has been training to smash the patriarchy since she was born around the corner at Strong Memorial Hospital. She majors in health, behavior, and society. She has interests in women’s studies and astronomy. She has served as president of the UR Women’s Caucus and is their current activism chair. She plans to get her MPH and pursue a career in women’s health advocacy. Her first campaign against authority took place in the third grade, when she used her daily milk money to buy cookies instead.

Sue S. Stewart Award

The Sue S. Stewart Award, also known as the Sue S. Stewart Leadership and Community Service Award, is made annually. The award recognizes a senior woman undergraduate student whose life in the University has been distinguished by a commitment to justice, equality, and community service, as these relate to diversity and inclusion, particularly in the lives of girls and women; and whose activities reflect the spirit of these principles and dedication to these qualities as expressed and inspired by the life and career of former Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the University of Rochester, Sue Stewart.

This year’s recipient was Anisha Gundewar. Anisha was a double major in microbiology and health, behavior, and society. On campus, she was most proud of her leadership in GlobeMed, a student-run social justice organization. As an undergraduate, she has spent nearly 6 months living and working abroad in India and Peru through volunteer opportunities and public health internships. In fall 2014, Anisha plans to begin medical school at the University of Rochester. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career promoting health among marginalized and underserved populations either domestically or abroad.
2014 Legacy Award Winners

Dean Ruth A. Merrill Award

The Dean Ruth A. Merrill Award, established by the University of Rochester class of 1960 “City Girls,” is presented to an undergraduate woman who has grown up in the greater-Rochester region. The recipient of the award displays community-minded awareness through her participation in volunteer activities that impact and improve the Rochester community.

This year’s recipient was Anjalene Whittier. Anjalene grew up in the 19th Ward, within the city of Rochester. She majored in psychology. On campus, she completed a senior honors thesis on stigma against people with disabilities; working with children who have autism and their families through the Developmental Neuropsychology Lab; and assisted with a project on the health of resettled refugees in the Department of Epidemiology. Off campus, she enjoys volunteering in the Rochester City School District, particularly through the U of R organization Partners in Reading. Anjalene plans to take a gap year between her bachelor’s degree and the start of her doctoral degree. In the future, she hopes to expand care to youth who have developmental disabilities and or serious mental illnesses, and who are living in high-risk environments.

Susan B. Anthony Prize

The Susan B. Anthony Prize is given by the University of Rochester’s Women’s Club to a senior enrolled in a five year program at the University. The student is honored for her academic achievement and for her outstanding participation and leadership in extra-curricular activities.

This year’s recipient was Elizabeth Riedman. Elizabeth was a double major in anthropology and religion and minored in film and math. As an undergraduate she has found joy in directing and acting in The Opposite of People theater group as well as dancing in Rochester Raas. Elizabeth had also been heavily involved in the Rochester Center for Community Leadership, after being an Urban Fellow and Wilson Day planner, which stems from her deep found love for the city of Rochester. This inspired her to dedicate her KEY year to improving opportunities for experiential learning on campus, finding ways to encourage professors to bring their classes off campus. In the future, Elizabeth hopes to continue to stay involved in the city of Rochester as well as attain a graduate degree in applied anthropology.
Susan B. Anthony Scholarship

The Susan B. Anthony Scholarship is sponsored by the University of Rochester’s Women’s Club. Members of the club honor Anthony by rewarding two undergraduate women for their outstanding leadership and commitment to co-curricular activities.

The first recipient was Crystal Hans. Crystal was born in Buffalo, New York, and attended Mount Saint Mary Academy. At the University of Rochester, she majors in English and minors in Spanish and legal studies. She is a Team Leader with the Learning and Exploring at Play (LEAP) program, which tutors kindergarten students in the Rochester City School District. She loves her job because of the opportunities to help people grow, not only the young children being taught to love learning, but her team, who learn to be teachers and leaders who make a difference in their community. In addition, she is part of the University of Rochester Women’s Ice Hockey team, and plays trumpet in the Pep Band. After graduation, Crystal hopes to go to law school and become a lawyer.

The second recipient was Tanatchaya (Tanya) Chanphanitpornkit. Tanya attends the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. She is studying double bass and music education. Having learned the rarity and importance of academia when she grew up in a rural town called Trat in Thailand, she vowed to become an educator and impart the gift of learning to all when she came to the United Stated of America at age 10. Tanya’s interests lie in the enrichment of community life, youth advocacy, and development of music education. She volunteers and teaches at Public School 17 in the Rochester City School District and at the Eastman Community Music School’s Early Childhood Music Program. Seasonally, she teaches various instruments at the New Jersey Youth Symphony and Music for Military. As she continues her journey in music education, she will always base her decisions and teachings on one belief: the symphony is for everyone.
Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award

The Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1997 by the Susan B. Anthony Center to honor and celebrate women whose lives have been enriched by their years at the University of Rochester and who have, in turn, inspired other women to advance and lead.

The 2014 award recipient was Jane S. Possee. Over a career that has spanned nearly forty years at Rochester, Jane S. Possee has impacted the lives of hundreds of undergraduate students, as both a coach and an administrator. After a distinguished coaching career in the sports of field hockey, women’s lacrosse, and women’s basketball, she became an Associate Director of Athletics for Recreation and Wellness. She handles oversight of the recreation programs, including intramural sports, master’s swimming, and club sports. She was the lead person in the multi-million dollar renovation of the Goergen Athletic Center in 1999-2000. She has overseen capital projects involving nearly every athletic facility—indoors and outdoors. In addition to her work hosting numerous conference and NCAA Championship events, she has served on a wide range of University committees stretching from orientation to HRMS to parking to Meliora Weekend. Her efforts as a coach and an educator were recognized in 2008 when she received the Goergen Award for Distinguished Contributions in Undergraduate Learning.

The Susan B. Anthony Center presents its Lifetime Achievement Award as well as the undergraduate women’s awards annually at the Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner. The University of Rochester Women’s Club co-sponsors the dinner and administers the Susan B. Anthony Scholarship and Prize. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and dedication.
The Susan B. Anthony Center’s Urban Scholar Award is presented to students who embrace the spirit of Susan B. Anthony in their dedication to social justice, overcoming social barriers to success, dedication to community activism, passion for community service, commitment to higher education, and or the pursuit of professional career goals. Students must be enrolled in a Rochester City School District high school or college/trade school, the Hillside Work Scholarship Connection, and the Teen Health & Success Partnership program while also employed at the University of Rochester, Strong Health, or Highland Hospital. Award recipients received a $1,000 scholarship to be used for college or trade school needs.

**2014 Urban Scholar Award**

**Shakierah Smith** graduated from School Without Walls High School in 2014. She is a project assistant at the Center for Community Health, UR Medicine where she assists with administrative tasks, special projects and helps other staff with their clerical and patient reporting needs. Shakierah has participated in the Taub Multimedia Program and attended the Students Inside Albany program. Most recently, Shakierah produced her own TV show, That New News, that was picked up by Rochester Community Television, which targets a range of topics such as, domestic violence, social issues, bullying, healthy relationships, education, friendships and gossip. Shakierah will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall of 2014 to major in Biology. She hopes to practice dentistry and go on to medical school after completing her undergraduate degree at RIT.

**Omar Mohamed** continues to be one of the Teen Health & Success Partnership program’s highest performing students academically. He was a high honor roll student at Edison High School where he graduated from in 2012 and consistently makes the dean’s list at Alfred University where he majors in accounting and is a Division III soccer player. Omar gives back to his community by volunteering time as a youth soccer instructor and is spending his summer as a peer mentor to incoming freshman at Alfred University.
### 2014 Urban Scholar Award

**Isho Abukar** is a 2013 graduate of All City High School and is currently a student at Nazareth College. Isho is a shining star in the Teen Health and Success Partnership program. Isho is an Ambassador assistant in Strong Memorial Hospital’s Ambassador & Guest Services department. Isho volunteers at Nazareth College in their Homework Help program where she assists high school students with their homework and at Mary’s Place in the City of Rochester where she helps adult refugees learn English.

**Kulashi Munyakayanza** graduated from Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School in 2014. Upon graduation, Kulashi will attend Nazareth College where he has been awarded a full scholarship. Kulashi is one of the top academically performing students in the Teen Health and Success Partnership program. He spends much of his free time working with the nursing staff at Strong Memorial Hospital as a Patient Safety Assistant. He is also very committed to volunteering at the Catholic Family Center where he serves as a peer mentor for teen immigrants.

**Mercy Kirui** graduated from Rochester Early College International High School in 2014. She has truly been a champion in her dedication to volunteering. Throughout high school, Mercy volunteered at The Women’s Foundation of Genesee Valley, Red Cross Samaritans Club, and Rehema House Committee. She has held leadership positions in each of her volunteer experiences and she is a 2014 valedictorian for her high school. Mercy currently works at the UR’s Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences as a project assistant with the STEM Gems program. Mercy enrolled at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the Fall of 2014 where she plans to study aerospace engineering.
2013–2014 Sponsorships

Travel and Research Grants

**Shilpa Topudurti**— Undergraduate Student Grant—to attend the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, NY

**Undergraduate Student Grant**—for seven undergraduate students to travel and attend the 10th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington, DC

**Angela Clark-Taylor**— Graduate Student Grant—two grants awarded: to present her work at the 125th Anniversary Conference of the National Council of Women of the US in New York, NY and to attend the 2014 American Association of University Women New York State Convention in Ellenville, NY

**Nancy Chin**— Faculty Grant—to have a guest from India come to the University to meet with local researchers to learn about outreach services working with adolescents

Sponsorships

**Campus Sponsorships**

**Rochester Center for Community Leadership**— Sponsorship of two leadership luncheons

**Webinar**— The Transsexual Transition in the Workplace

**Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies**— Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference

**Women’s Caucus**— Vagina Monologues

**Intercultural Center**— Tim Wise Speaker Event

**Office of Alumni Relations**— An Evening of Diversity and Empowerment
2013-2014 Sponsorships

Community Sponsorships

Office for Faculty Development and Diversity— Shoulders To Stand On Breakfast

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley— Shoulders To Stand On Documentary film premiere

Greater Rochester Branch American Association for University Women— Breakfast

National Women’s Hall of Fame— Annual Induction Ceremony and Weekend

Greater Rochester Branch American Association for University Women— Luncheon

Soy Unica Soy Latina— Latinas Unidas Conference

National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House— Annual SBA Birthday Luncheon

Center for Youth— Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester Gala

Center for Youth— Annual Gala

Greater Rochester Branch American Association for University Women— International Women’s Day Reception

Volunteers of America/ Step by Step Program— Celebration of Women Breakfast

Resolve— Resolutionary Awards Breakfast
The Stanton/Anthony Conversations and Luncheon, which occurs each year as part of Meliora Weekend, brings outstanding leaders together to explore the subtle social hurdles women face as they seek to lead in business, academia, and government.

The keynote address is given at the annual luncheon, and is followed by an open conversation with the keynote speaker and other panelists as they discuss and reflect on challenges women face in the 21st century.

The 2013 Stanton/Anthony Conversations was held:
October 11, 2013

Luncheon:
Keynote Speaker—Beth Bailey, Ph.D.

The discussion was based on the role of women in the military and how women are perceived by the media and within the ranks. Beth Bailey, Ph.D., social and cultural historian of the 20th Century and author and co-author of several books presented the keynote address given at the luncheon.

Panel Discussion:

The panel consisted of a lively discussion on the role of women and gender in the military, and how women are perceived by the media and within the ranks.

The panelists included activists, scientists, and military personnel: Beth Bailey, Ph.D. (keynote speaker), Aaron Belkin, Ph.D., and Stephanie Smart, J.D.
Call to Action: Creating and Maintaining Safer Campuses

Two Day Conference
April 2-3, 2014

In early April, the University hosted its second annual sexual assault prevention conference, Call to Action: Creating and Maintaining Safe Campuses. Beginning with a Title IX Think Tank, Title IX officers from across Western New York met to brainstorm and discuss the challenges facing universities in regards to sexual assault. The roundtable was followed by a reception, titled Activism Through the Arts, that featured local author Marjorie Baker Price, and local artist, Lydia Billings, to discuss how creativity can enhance activism. A day-long conference occurred the following day. It focused on discussing, examining, and collaborating on the prevention of sexual assault on campuses. Members of the western NY higher education community and local area community members attended the conference. The goal was to create best practices in the prevention and response to incidents of gender violence on campus using interdisciplinary initiatives. A sample of the conference sessions that occurred includes “Title IX in One Word: Implementation,” “Gender Based Violence and One Billion Rising: A Campus Response,” “No-Yes: A Survivor’s Story and Journey,” and “Cyber-Related Sexual Misconduct: Policies and Education.” There were also two events held the evening of the conference, “Exploring Advocacy Through Art-Making” and a film screening of “Tough Guise 2.”

With over 130 attendees throughout the two-day conference, we are confident that we have begun an important dialogue that will continue both on our campus and in the wider community.

Planning Committee:

- University Intercessor’s Office
- Equal Opportunity Compliance Office
- Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies
- Office of the Dean of Students
- UHS Health Promotion Office

“Once we have a place to talk about it, it’s like releasing a poison from inside us,” Rochester, NY—2013

Lydia Billings, Trigger Warning
www.triggerwarningphoto.com
Thank You

Thank you for supporting the Center this academic year. We look forward to continuing our work with the campus community and Rochester area members and organizations.

Mission

We are inspired by Susan B. Anthony’s vision and passion, and seek to continue that work by translating research into policy and practice to improve lives.

The Susan B. Anthony Center works to overcome remaining barriers to equality, including social justice issues and violence against women.

We recognize that empowerment comes through education and safety.

Contact the Center:
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Visit us on the web:
www.rochester.edu/SBA

Stop by and see us:
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