~Jan Term With The WRC~

Still looking for the perfect quarter credit for this Jan Term? Both WRC Director Sharon Sobotta and Coordinator of Sexual Assault Awareness Gillian Cutshaw are teaching quarter credit courses!

“The Rhythm of Change” is the title of Sobotta’s course, which explores journalism through the lens of personal interest stories about local activism. The class, which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to noon, will create a podcast of compiled interviews that will air on KPFA’s Women’s Magazine radio show.

“Students Ending Sexual Violence at SMC” is the subtitle of Cutshaw’s peer educator training course, which will also meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to noon. This course is intended to help students engage in conversations and present information that promotes outreach and awareness about sexual assault. Students who complete the course will be able to join the WRC’s peer education program.

To check out either of these courses, search “JAN013” and “JAN03” on GaelXPress, or email Sharon (ssobbotta@stmarys-ca.edu) or Gillian (gec1@stmarys-ca.edu) for more information.

World AIDS Day was the most recent WRC program. Students and staff gathered to discuss the impact of this illness, and to tie red awareness ribbons to branches, as pictured. The night also included a performance of “Seasons of Love” by the SMC Glee Club.
What do you get when you combine the talents of female actors, directors, producers and artists with a fervent desire to raise funds for local non-profits and advocate for the elimination of preventable and environmental causes of breast cancer? An evening viewing of nine amazing short films and a whole lot of Luna bars.

LUNAFEST is a traveling film festival filled with stories by women, for women, and about women that center around the themes of reflection, hope and humor sponsored by LUNA, the makers of The Whole Nutrition Bar for Women. Originally founded in 2000, LUNAFEST has featured 110 filmmakers and has raised close to two million dollars. This year’s festival will travel to over 150 cities and screen in front of 25,000 people. One of those cities will be Moraga, California and one of those people could be you.

The Women’s Resource Center at Saint Mary’s College in California has sponsored LUNAFEST screenings since 2009. This year the screening will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd from 6:00-8:00 pm in Saint Mary’s Hagerty Lounge in De LaSalle Hall. The format of each screening is left up to the discretion of the organization. The WRC screening will feature a generous spread of snacks.

This year’s LUNAFEST films range in form from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women’s health, motherhood, body image, sexuality, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. “It’s a platform for women’s stories,” explained WRC director Sharon Sobotta.

The WRC charges $5 for students and $10 for non-students. Thus far, LUNAFEST has raised over $656,000 for Breast Cancer Fund and over $1,000,000 for other women’s non-profit organizations. “All of our proceeds go directly to The Breast Cancer Fund,” said Sobotta.

Previous screenings have been 75 people strong, a number which is expected to keep growing. Some students get credit for Jan. Term courses, others just come for fun. “Often students will say it’s one of their favorite events of the year,” said Sobotta.

LUNAFEST is open to the community and members of the Lamorinda area are encouraged to support female artists and join in the fight against breast cancer. “It’s a great opportunity to really experience art and to connect through film,” Sobotta encouraged.

For more information on LUNAFEST (or to watch a trailer of this year’s shorts) visit: www.lunafest.org