A Night to Remember

By Valerie Ettenhofer

On the evening of October 22nd, students will come together for a walk across campus that will end in a candlelit prayer. These students will gather with signs and candles, some for the first time and some for the fourth year in a row, to remember the legacy of Catalina Torres.

Catalina Torres was a former SMC student who lost her life standing up against domestic violence on September 6th, 2008. Torres, or “Cata” as friends called her, was a “Jane-of-all-trades” according to Women’s Resource Center Director Sharon Sobotta.

Born in Mexico and raised in Martinez, California, Torres attended Saint Mary’s as a returning student, already a mother of two. She worked as a cosmetologist, gardener and math tutor, majoring in Women’s Studies during her time at SMC. A domestic violence survivor herself, Cata met annually with the WRC to share her story, empower others, and advocate for an end to abuse.

Tragically, Torres was shot in 2008 while attempting to help a relative escape an abusive situation. As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Saint Mary’s Women’s Resource Center will hold their fourth annual “Catalina Torres Night to Remember,” an event intended to share Cata’s story, keep the spirit of her work alive and bring students together against an important issue.

This year, join us in honoring Catalina’s memory by stopping by A Night to Remember at 6pm in the WRC at the garden level of Mitty Hall. Speakers include Jaime Tomasello, an SMC student who Torres tutored, and alumni Kim Bolte, a motivational speaker and survivor of domestic abuse. In addition to the vigil, the event will include the presentation of the second annual Catalina Torres award, which will go to a student who has stood out as a mentor and advocate in the community.

WRC’s month in review: September!

- On-campus worker Gemma Pavon spoke alongside LA Senator Kevin De León about how to be revolutionary in the workplace
- Investigator Alicia Jamarillo and SMC’s own Professor Santiago headed up a discussion about how culture shapes experience at the Celebrating Latinas Luncheon

Contact Us

WRC: (925) 631-4192 or online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/wrc

Director Sharon Sobotta, MS: (925) 631-4171 or email ssobotta@stmarys-ca.edu

Coordinator Gillian Cutshaw, MA: (925) 631-4193 or email gec1@stmarys-ca.edu

SMC’s Anonymous 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline: (925) 878-9207

Quick Calendar

- October 9th — LGBTQIA Luncheon
- October 10th — The Body Positive
- October 16th — Rethinking Pink Breast Cancer Luncheon
- October 22nd — Catalina Torres Night to Remember
- October 24th — The Body Positive
By Gabriela Fernandez

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! In honor of this, the Women’s Resource Center partners with the Health and Wellness Center to host an awareness luncheon.

This year’s luncheon will focus specifically on the impact the breast cancer epidemic has on women and families of color. In our quest to make all stories and resources accessible and demonstrate the wide impact of the disease, we have invited community organizers working to empower women battling breast cancer while bridging cultural, lingual and socioeconomic gaps (in resource and healthcare access), as well as men and women who have been secondary survivors of the disease.

The event also taps into the history behind the breast cancer ribbon, specifically focusing on how the disease is being used to profit. Because of this, we are asking participants to wear salmon or peach to honor the cause and theme of the luncheon. The luncheon also serves as a fundraiser for the Women’s Cancer Resource Center of Oakland, California. Various departments on campus are donating items and “themed” gift baskets full of goodies to raffle off at the event. Tickets for the raffle will be sold at $2.00 a piece or 3 for $5.00. The event is open to all as we encourage everyone to come learn about the impact of breast cancer and the importance behind challenging our society to "rethink pink."

October 16th, Soda Center 1-2:30pm

Rethinking Pink!
Breast cancer awareness luncheon