

## The New Semester Brings New Staff Members

By Elisa Pennetti, '10



Back row (L to R): Christine, Marjan, Casey, Britney, Michelle  
Middle row (L to R): Heather, Jess, Emily, Divya, Alisha, Xochitl  
Bottom row (L to R): Nicole, Anna, Elisa

This year has been significant in the history of the Women's Center. With director **Kristin Handler** leaving after six years to finish her Ph.D., the Women's Center also saw five senior staff members graduate in May. With the total loss of six valuable women, four more walked through the Women's Center doors this fall.

**Emily Rojer**, a first year student, became interested in the Women's Center upon enrolling at Lehigh.

"[The Women's Center] seemed like a bunch of really nice people who are involved in some really awesome programs to raise awareness and promote equality," Emily says.

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**Brett Sokolow Returns to Lehigh**  
**A Look at Lehigh POP**  
**Heather Says Goodbye**

## Welcome Back!

By Heather Sterner, WC coordinator

The student and professional staff are excited for the 2007-2008 semester! We already are busy planning some major events. "**Sex Signals**" on September 10th was a huge success! We are also excited to be co-sponsoring the **Lehigh POP** series with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the LGBTQIA Programs and Services Office (<http://www.lehigh.edu/~inlupop>).

Plans for **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** are coming together. So far we have four main programs. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, **Professor Lucy Gans** will moderate a panel (including our very own **Michelle Issadore**, Assistant Director!) on domestic violence coinciding with her exhibit "**In Our Own Words.**" Michelle and **Chris Diggs**, graduate student, will be presenting on **Sexual Violence in the LGBTQIA Community** on October 17<sup>th</sup>. A fund raiser will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> for Professor Gans' sculptures to benefit Turning Point. And finally, you don't want to miss "What if the plane blew up..." with **Brett Sokolow** on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

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## Meet the Staff

**Michelle Issadore**  
Assistant Director

**Heather Sterner**  
Coordinator

**Divya Arunachalam** '09—Intern, WOCA Co-Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator

**Alisha Gonzales** '09—BEAlliance Co-Coordinator, Student Athlete Mentors project

**Nina Granberry** '08—WOCA Co-Coordinator

**Anna Ingoglia** '10 — Vagina Monologues Co-Producer

**Britney Izzi** '08—BEA, Women's Health Initiative

**Marjan Maghbouleh** '08—*Women's Word* Editor, Gender and Violence Group Co-Coordinator

**Xochitl Mota**, GRAD—Vagina Monologues Co-Producer

**Elisa Pennetti** '10—BEA Co-Producer

**Nicole Perry** '09—Women's Center Programming

**Emily Rojer** '11 —WOCA Co-Coordinator

**Liz Roth** '08—WOCA (studying abroad)

**Casey Ryan** '09—Gender & Violence Group Co-Coordinator

**Christine Tucker** '08—*Origyns* editor

**Jessica Wren** '08—*Women's Word* editor, BEA

## New Members

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She is from Maple Grove, Minnesota, where she has a cat older than she is! Thinking about pursuing an International Marketing major, Emily is also excited to become involved with the Women of Color Alliance and the Body Empowerment Alliance, taking note of how these two respective groups overlap.

Another addition to the Women's Center staff is **Divya Arunachalam**, '09. This Behavioral Neuroscience major is from Irvine, California but was born in Canada. Divya initially sought out the Women's Center because she is planning a Women's Studies minor, and part of the minor requirements is to intern in the Women's Center. But that was not the only reason Divya wanted to work at here.

"I think the Women's Center has numerous programs which are essential to Lehigh as a whole," she says. Divya is passionate about those feminist issues "which relate to women's health as well as illuminate the diversity among women at Lehigh."

**Christine Tucker**, '08, also joined the Women's Center staff this year. She is a senior English major from Niskayuna, New York, near Albany, where she has worked as a waitress at a sushi restaurant. Christine said she decided to work at the Women's Center because she wanted to be in a community that has positive attitudes about women.

"I wanted to work to raise awareness on campus about issues women face," she says. And if that wasn't reason enough, Christine adds, "It just feels good to work with people who proudly call themselves feminists!" She says she is most enthusiastic about reproductive rights and sexual education, and body image as it relates to societal norms and expectations about the female body.

**Britney Izzi**, '08, has been involved with Women's Center groups like the Body Empowerment Alliance for the past two years, but she just joined the staff this year. She discovered the Women's Center in an unconventional way.

"One day, sophomore year, I walked up the wrong staircase to the UC and saw the Women's Center," she says. "I went home and was curious what it was about. I decided the next day to stop in and check it out."

Britney is a Psychology major who was originally from Philadelphia but recently moved to Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. She is most interested in body image issues that are facing women today.

With the addition of four staff members from different years, backgrounds and majors, everyone will offer different ideas as the Women's Center enters new era.

Other new members include **Anna Ingoglia**, '10, **Xochitl Mota**, Graduate Student, and **Nicole Perry**, '09.

## Giving and Receiving the Right Sex Signals

By Marjan Maghbouleh '08

"I hammered her."  
"I want to pound her."  
"I nailed her last night."  
"What are you doing?" John Mallory asked 250 students in Packard Auditorium. "Having sex at Home Depot?"

Mallory and Amber Kelly are two actors from the program **Sex Signals**, an improvisational comedy show from **Catharsis Productions** that aims to expose all the gender stereotypes, myths, expectations and hidden meanings involved in the dating world today.



John Mallory and Amber Kelly use improvisational comedy to open college students' eyes to issues of sexual assault and date rape.

The audience-interactive program also serves to educate college students about the true definition of sexual assault or rape, and the ways in which both parties can make informed, consensual decisions before getting physical.

Engrained in college students' minds – and the minds of the majority of Americans – are preconceived ideas about gender roles and expectations. Mallory and Kelly asked the audience to shout out words that describe our idea of the "typical" man and woman.

Females must be quiet, classy, passive virgins with their legs crossed, the audience said. Men must be good at every sport, champion beer-drinkers with an aggressive nature. The actors played out situations while assuming the stereotypical roles of men and women. Throughout the night, audience members held up stop signs whenever the actors portrayed a scene on stage that made for an uncomfortable moment.

The traveling show highlighted the effects of miscommunication between two people entering a physical relationship. Such miscommunication, as the program demonstrated, can lead to sexual assault, even if the aggressor didn't have any bad intentions.

The program quickly turned somber when the improvisation led to Mallory's line, "I really didn't rape that girl." A silence fell over the auditorium.

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# Sex signals

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From there, Mallory and Kelly defined rape and debunked stereotypes of what kind of person can be the aggressor, or survivor, of date rape. The possibility of sexual assault can be abolished, they said, if both parties simply ask for clarification or consent: "Do you want to have sex?"

The actors told the hypothetical story of two college students, physically attracted to one another, who were caught up in the effects of unclear messages and poor communication. When the male student initiated intercourse, the female student quietly whispered stop. The male student continued, without any further fight from his partner. Was this rape?

Technically, yes. Audience members raised their hands to ask the actors questions: "But she just whispered it once. She didn't put up a fight."

Mallory and Kelly clarified that all it takes is one "No" or one "Stop." A stereotype exists wherein the person being assaulted must physically fight back or scream in order for the situation to qualify as rape. In fact, more often, the opposite is true. During an assault, the survivor can go into shock, unable to kick, scream or violently resist in the way society typically thinks he or she should. And what mutual safety ultimately comes down to, they demonstrated, is this: clear communication.

"How many of you have ever asked your partner to have sex?"

Slowly but surely, hands rose toward the ceiling.

"And what was the outcome?"

Confident giggles and applause took over the auditorium, laying to rest the myth that verbally asking for sex or consent "ruins the moment."

"Right," Mallory said. "After all, don't you want to be with someone who wants to be with you?"



## Heather Says Goodbye

As many people have heard, my last day at Lehigh will be Thursday, October 18. While I am looking forward to my new role as the Assistant Director of Student Activities at Arcadia University, I can't help but be sad and nostalgic over leaving. It has been one amazing journey here at Lehigh. This is truly a special place with extraordinary people.

Like the memories from four years of being a college student, the four years I've spent as a staff member are weaved together with names, faces, places, moments, experiences, and opportunities...

The amazing staff of the WC over the years: Kristin, Steve, Michelle, Anne J., Quinn, Farhana, Sarah J., Sarah S., Kristen, Annie, Chelsea, Clare, Rachel, Alex, Nayla, Chris, Ajita, Marisa, Marjan, Hailey, Jessica, Casey, Steph, Elisa, Alisha, Nina, Liz, Kim, Divya, Emily, Christine, Britney, Anna, Xochitl, and Nicole.

The outstanding speakers and programs: The Century Project, SOARS, Margaret Cho, MC Lyte, Joan Morgan, Take Back the Night Marches, HBIW, *The Vagina Monologues*, Alix Olson, Adrienne Rich, Keith Edwards, Marcia Ann Gillespie...the list goes on!

The random things that have made Lehigh and the WC feel like home to me: purple bean bag chairs, violets, Pastaficio (RIP! We miss you!), finding parking (like an adult version of musical chairs), walks around campus, lunch with friends, Safe Zone, the water cooler visits, the view from Mt. Top, and the amazing DOS Office.

I must say a special thanks to Michelle Issadore and Sharon Basso for their support and encouragement and helping me to believe that anything is possible. Thank you also to the students I have worked with over the years... coming to work was not a "job" for me as much as it was a pleasure to spend each day with women who are truly going to be this generations leaders, movers, and shakers. I can't wait to hear about what you will do beyond Lehigh.

So...don't forget to water the plants, keep reaching for the stars, and I'll see you at one of the WC programs in the future!

Sincerely,  
Heather Sterner  
Women's Center Coordinator  
2003-2007

After October 18, Heather can be reached at hlsterner@yahoo.com or 484-347-1402.

# Brett Sokolow Ready for Round Two at Lehigh

By Casey Ryan '09

**Brett Sokolow** is back! After his successful presentation of "Drunk Sex or Date Rape?" last Spring, Sokolow returns under the new theme "What if the plane blew up?" on **October 29 at 7 p.m. in Packard 101.**

Based on his personal experience with a thwarted terrorist attack, Sokolow addresses the issue of **bystander intervention** and the importance of standing up for what you believe in. Sokolow begins by telling the story that inspired the program; Shortly after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Sokolow was in the airport waiting for a flight. While in the airport lounge, Sokolow observed a suspicious character preparing to board his plane. Sokolow did not want to cause any trouble and refrained from confronting the man. A fellow passenger who was not as worried about protocol approached the sketchy man and called for airport security.



**Brett Sokolow:** Oct. 29, 7 p.m. in Packard 101

confronted this man? Would I be dead because I was too polite to get involved in a potentially awkward situation?" The moral of the story is not to be afraid of confrontation. When you see something wrong, other people are probably observing it also, and if you take the first step to combat that wrong, you will find that other people have your back. Given this background, Sokolow will expand on the concept of bystander intervention and how it can make every community a safer and better place.

As Brett Sokolow has already proven his worth here at Lehigh with "Drunk Sex or Date Rape?", it will be very interesting to see how he spins this subject and the impact that he will have on the audience. Get ready to be inspired and to never let an opportunity to speak out pass you by again!

Only then did Sokolow and three other men join in to help control the man until airport security arrived. Later, Sokolow read in the paper that the man had been "testing the system" with a vest full of fake explosives attached to his chest.

This story led Sokolow to question, "What if the explosives had been real and no one had

## Welcome Back

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Some plans are already in place for Spring 2008, too! **Anna Ingoglia**, '10, and **Xochitl Mota**, graduate student, are co-producing **The Vagina Monologues** which will be performed in February 2008. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for V-Day and The Vagina Monologues and the 8<sup>th</sup> show for Lehigh. (Stay tuned: auditions will be held in November). We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of **Ariel Levy** on March 18th for a lecture to be remembered! We are also in the process of finalizing plans to bring the **Guerilla Girls on Tour** on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our student staff is working hard to get the Fall 2007 programs of the various student groups up and running. Break the Silence has already been busy with first year student programs held on Saturday, August 25th. The women and men peer mentors presented a grand total of 48 programs in 6 hours! **The Body Empowerment Alliance**, **Gender and Violence Working Group**, and the **Women of Color Alliance** have started meeting and are looking for new members. The editors of **Origyns** are looking for publications for the 2007-2008 edition.

The Women's Center Web site received a "makeover." (The information and where it is located has not changed.) In order to keep everyone informed about our events, we have started a new calendar on our website using Google Calendar! Now you find out about our events as well as "save" them in your own personal calendar or even send event reminders to friends. Keep checking back for the latest updates on our programs.

## Submit to ORIGYNS!

This year, *Origyns* — a Women's Center publication for feminist voices — aims to have its biggest publication yet.

**We need YOU to submit your work!**

*Essays, poetry, short stories, articles, and artwork are all welcome. We want any work about female/feminist perspectives, issues women face, or anything that celebrates the general awesomeness of women!*

**Deadline: December 7, 2007**

E-mail submissions to: [cet204@lehigh.edu](mailto:cet204@lehigh.edu)

Origyns info at the Women's Center website:

<http://www.lehigh.edu/womenscenter/publications.html>

# Lehigh POP: How We (Re-)define Ourselves

By Michelle Issadore, Assistant Director

Many Americans are undiagnosed pop-culture addicts. Most of us simply can't help it; We love reality TV, YouTube clips, the *shuffle* feature on iPod, oversized sunglasses, vintage clothing and futuristic music. Oh, and we absolutely can't get enough of famous people. We crave all the juicy gossip about our favorite musicians, movie stars, athletes and heiresses. We feel as if we *must* be in-the-know when it comes to the latest trends in music, movies, fashion and entertainment. Let's face it: We love POP!

The Women's Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and LGBTQA Programs at Lehigh have joined forces for a year-long exploration of American popular culture in an attempt to better understand the various communities in which we live. **Lehigh POP** is a programming series intended to analyze past events and contemporary issues through various critical perspectives. Although pop-culture is interesting and fun to follow, we submit that it can also be useful in examining how people relate to each other as well as how we define (or re-define) ourselves.

Beginning this Fall, Lehigh POP programs will offer multiple opportunities for students, faculty and staff to talk about pop-culture phenomena. We want our community to think critically about societal issues as they are reflected in Hollywood and in our everyday lives. Please check out our calendar to stay plugged in to Lehigh POP events ([www.lehigh.edu/~inlupop](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inlupop)). You can also stay in touch by joining the Lehigh POP Facebook group and posting your thoughts on the discussion board. Don't forget to take our POP quizzes for a chance to win prizes!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October - Music

**Oct. 16 - Music & Lyrics: A Listening Party**

**7:00 p.m. in The Multicultural Center**

Participants will be asked to listen closely to the lyrics of several "Top 40" hit songs from the genres of Hip Hop/Rap, R&B, Country, Rock and Pop. Lyric sheets will be provided to allow for in-depth review of the overt and covert ways in which popular music contributes to social constructions of race, gender, religion, sexuality and other aspects of identity. Facilitators will also show selected music videos to offer additional imagery.

**Oct. 24 - Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes**

**7:00 p.m. in The Women's Center**

This program will begin with a screening of an amazing documentary by hip-hop scholar Byron Hurt which analyzes misogyny, homophobia, heterosexism and hyper-masculinity in hip-hop music. After viewing the film, participants will have a conversation about the topics covered in the film. The intended outcome of this program would be to create dialogue with students about a cross-section of issues related to the dominance of hip-hop within mainstream American culture.



## For more info:

**E-mail:** [inlupop@lehigh.edu](mailto:inlupop@lehigh.edu)

### Or contact:

- Women's Center (inwnc)
- Multicultural Affairs (inmca)
- LGBTQA services (rainbowroom)



### November - Religion & Politics

**Nov. 13 - Crossing Over: The Immigration Debate**

**5:30 p.m. - Location TBD**

Immigration into the United States is one of its most widely debated issues, especially in light of the forthcoming presidential election. This program would allow Lehigh students to debate the issue with mediation by a Faculty member in Political Science or an affiliated discipline. We expect to engage College Democrats, College Republicans, the Progressive Student Alliance, Global Union, Global Citizenship, Black Student Union, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and other interested student groups in this debate.

**Nov. 28 - Church & State**

**Time and Location TBD**

What does religion have to do with politics in this upcoming election? Some would say everything. The current political climate has religion as a hot topic, from the influence of the "Christian Right" on various political issues to the debates about terrorism, which is barely ever mentioned without reference to Islam. It is also a hot topic in pop culture, from the gossip about TomKat's Christian-Science birth practices to Madonna's move to Kabbalah. This Panel Discussion and forum seeks to explore the various issues that have religion and politics intersecting more than just the old school debates of the Pledge of Allegiance in school or "In God We Trust" on our money.

### December - Media

**Pop in the Media: Reporting the facts, or driving the frenzy?**

**Time and Location TBD**

Popular culture consists of widespread cultural elements in any given society. Such elements are perpetuated through that society's vernacular language, and comprises the daily interactions, needs and desires and cultural 'moments' that make up the everyday lives of the mainstream. It can include any number of practices, including those pertaining to cooking, clothing, consumption and the many facets of entertainment such as sports and literature. Pop culture finds its expression in the mass circulation of items from areas such as fashion, music, sport and film. The question is: Do the media simply *portray* or *mirror* pop culture through various mediums, or does it now *drive* pop culture?

# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8 <b>Pacing Break — No classes</b>	9	10	11 <b>In Our Own Words:</b> Lucy Gans	12	13
14	15	16 <b>Music &amp; Lyrics:</b> A Listening Party 7 p.m., Multicultural Center	17 <b>Sexual Violence in LGBTQ Community,</b> 4:30 p.m. Maginnes Hall	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <b>Hip-hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes</b> 7 p.m. Women's Center	25	26	27
28		29 <b>Brett Sokolow</b> 7 p.m. Packard 101	30	31	domestic violence awareness month	

# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Crossing Over:</b> The Immigration Debate, 5:30 p.m. Location TBD	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <b>Church and State:</b> Religion and politics Location/time TBD	29	30	

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**BREAK THE SILENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
PEER HOTLINE: 610-974-HOPE (4673)**

Available 24/7 during fall and spring semesters  
Anonymous and confidential

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