Dear Friends,

Throughout 2014, we celebrated 50 years of CEW’s work at the University of Michigan. We hope you joined us for at least one of our 50th anniversary celebration events, and with this newsletter we’re giving you the opportunity to remember, revisit, or revel in the excitement of our 50th year.

Offering a mix of celebration and serious discussion, these four signature events spoke to the many strengths of CEW: attentiveness to the lived experience of women here on campus; a commitment to assisting women achieve their educational and economic goals; and an ability to adapt priorities and services to current needs.

Perhaps one of the hallmarks of CEW’s impact over the years has been a dedication to looking forward...to redesigning services to meet the differing needs of women across the decades. Looking forward...to the outcomes of new research on women conducted by U-M faculty and scholars across the country. Looking forward...to partnerships with University units. Looking forward...to documenting where much has been accomplished and where there is still much yet to do.

We have had many reasons to celebrate this past year. And now we will continue to build on our fifty years of investing in the educational and employment success of women. Please join us as we enter our sixth decade of work.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Gloria D. Thomas, Director, CEW
Women in Film

January’s Women in Film brought over 900 celebrants to view six short films on topics related to women. Academy award winner Cynthia Wade spoke about her work and screened Mondays at Racine, her documentary about the hair salon that offered services to women cancer patients.

Top left: CEW Leadership Council Members, Lee Gorman, Principal, Barton Consultant Services and Tiffany Ford, CEO, UM Credit Union

Top right: Film right event marquee

Bottom left: The event filled the Michigan Theatre.

Bottom right: Douglass DiCocco, TIAA CREF. We thank TIAA-CREF for its support of all of our Anniversary events.

CEW Celebrates 50 Years

Women and Economic Security Conference

In May, CEW and national organization, Re-Gender, co-sponsored a 3-day conference entitled, Women and Economic Security: Changing Policy and Practice. The conference included a mix of research and policy panels, small group deliberations on policy recommendations for Michigan, and a dance performance reflecting the experiences of low-wage women workers. Sheryl WuDunn of Half the Sky was the keynote speaker. With a unique mix of policy and practice approaches, this Rackham-funded Michigan Meeting expanded the discourse on addressing the needs of low-income women in our state.

Top left: Keynote speaker Sheryl WuDunn of Half the Sky

Bottom left: Closing keynote by Cindy Estrada, Vice President, UAW

Top right: A dance performance, Dancing Strong, by Adesola Akinleye, Lecturer, U-M Flint, explored the area of women and work.

Bottom right: Community members and academic practitioners participated in the 3-day event.

On Our Cover
CEW’s 50th celebration and party held October 18th in the Michigan League.

Photos by Austin Thomason, Michigan Photography
CEW Celebration

Dinner, dancing, recognizing the work of CEW over the past 50 years, and catching up with old and new friends – CEW’s October celebration also marked the official return of many who were CEW Scholarship recipients. Now numbering over 1500, scholars were able to connect through small group discussions and at dinner, building the foundation for an ongoing Community of Scholars Network.

Top left: Samantha Hand (left) and Victoria Hicks, former CEW scholars. Bottom left: Leadership Council member Donald Vereen (far right) and his wife, Susan Collins, the Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy, Ford School. Top center: Motor City Beat provided the dance music. Right: Gloria Thomas, Director, CEW, spoke to the capacity crowd in the Michigan League Ballroom.

Alice Walker Lecture

In conjunction with the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, CEW brought author, poet, and activist Alice Walker to campus to deliver the DAAS Zora Neale Hurston Lecture. Walker’s activist and womanist perspective energized the Hill Auditorium listeners and turned our focus from past achievements to future needs.

CEW Awards 50 Scholarships in 2014

Update on the New Community of Scholars Network Initiative

The Center’s 50th Anniversary Friends and Scholars Weekend exceeded our expectations. In brief, the Network will help participating fellows and scholars reach their stated goals, such as making a positive impact in their communities, and bringing fulfillment to both their personal and professional lives. The Network will be developed over a three-year period, piloting several different components and learning what works best for our members.

We are forming three different scholar task forces that will meet (with members both in person and connecting virtually so that geography is no obstacle) no more than four times between January and May 2015. The charge of each task force will be to advise and shape the first pilot year in one of the three areas identified: task force on connecting/community building; task force on gathering annually and task force on supporting new scholars through graduation.

If you have an interest in participating as a member of one of the task forces, input or questions please contact dmurasky@umich.edu or 734.764.7271

CEW History Book Now Available

Published by the University of Michigan’s Bentley Library, A Matter of Fairness: A History of the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan explores the founding of CEW, its development over the years and its impact on the University. Using archival records and interviews with key figures, author Jeanne Miller outlines the history of the Center within the context of changing times at the University and in the world. Find excerpts of the book online at www.cew.umich.edu/about or contact us for a copy at contactcew@umich.edu

CEW celebrated 50 scholars at a Saturday morning brunch at the Michigan League on October 18th, 2014. CEW has awarded nearly 1,600 scholarships and fellowships, more than 5.5 million dollars, since the privately-funded program was started in 1970.

Left: Past CEW Scholar Farideh Almani (left); 2014 CEW Scholar Saleemah Morris, with scholarship sponsor Molly Dobson.
Top center: 2014 CEW Scholar Melissa Grant (left) with Vaughn Brown, representative for the Dusseau Scholarships.
Top right: 2014 CEW Scholar Frank Sedlar with his mother, Lisa Carley
Center: 2014 CEW Scholar Shayna Bradford (left) with Beth Halloran, for whom the new Beth Halloran Scholarship was named.
Bottom Right: 2014 CEW Scholar Fumie Kawasaki (left); talking with Angela Lidner, past CEW scholar and scholarship citation reader.