Life in Two Genders: A Conversation with Jennifer Finney Boylan

This year, Lucy Cross was fortunate enough to have Thomas P. Jefferson Distinguished Scholar, Jennifer Finney Boylan visit Rollins and speak to students, faculty, staff and community members. Jenny was the first transgender speaker at Rollins and helped us to further break down the gender binary. She is a New York Times bestselling author of her memoir “She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders.”

During Jenny’s visit, she hosted a Q&A session for students, followed by one for faculty and staff. Later, LGBT community leaders were asked to join Jenny for a reception before her Keynote Address.

In this, she emphasized the importance of telling your own story, in which she followed by reading passages of her own stories. Not shortly after, she gave the audience a view of her musical ability when she sang an old Celtic song. After sharing her own personal stories, including the support she received from her conservative, Christian mother, she allowed the audience to ask her questions, and offered advice for both allies and other transgender people.
COLLABORATIONS
Throughout the year, Lucy Cross has had the opportunity to collaborate with thirteen campus and off-campus groups. These included the academic departments of Women’s Studies, Philosophy and Religion and the POL306: Muslims in Western Politics class. In addition offices such as Office of Multicultural Affairs, Career Services, Fox Funds, Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, and the Office of Community Relations worked with Lucy Cross in collaborative measures. We also worked with student organizations such as The Birds and The Bees (a sex positive discussion group), Spectrum (an LGBTQ+ student group), Voices for Women and the Lucy Cross Literature Club. Staff and faculty committees included Prism (an LGBTQ+ student/faculty group), and the Diversity Advisory Council. Finally, Lucy Cross worked with an off-Campus group known as 85 Broads as well.

CENTER USAGE
Each month, hundreds of students, faculty and staff use the Lucy Cross Center to meet, eat, relax and hold events.

This year, there were twelve scheduled events that took place in the Lucy Cross Center which reached almost two hundred students faculty and staff. Between various gatherings, celebrations and open house events, we hope to continue collaborating across Rollins’ campus.

The space has also served as an excellent meeting space in which groups held a total of eighty meetings consisting of over seven hundred visits by students, faculty and staff. Organizations such as Introverts United, Spectrum and Voices for Women are among these groups.

The Lucy Cross Center is a welcoming place where students, staff, and faculty are inspired, challenged and engaged. It is a place where community is formed, and networks are established. The Lucy Cross Center provides a comfortable, safe space for individuals and groups, collaborates to provide effective programming and opportunities for leadership development/mentoring, and to advocate for women and their allies.

The Lucy Cross Center is a great place to study or prepare for classes and meetings!

Zakiya Brown, Dr. Michelle Stecker, Jonathan Pamplin, Brittany Smetanka and Rob Pfluger meeting in Lucy.
Voices for Women Meetings
Voices for Women, the campus feminist group, held weekly meetings in the Lucy Cross Center throughout the 2012-2013 academic year. During these meetings, the quartet of co-presidents led discussions of feminist issues in the media, politics, and on campus. More specifically, some meetings consisted of reading excerpted feminist literature, others focused on brainstorming events Voices and other groups on campus could collaborate on, and others yet served as a platform for members to share how they were feeling after.

Lucy Cross Roundtable Discussions
The Office of Multicultural Affairs previously held Lucy Cross Center Drop In Discussions before the Lucy Cross Center had its own space and staff. They were run by three OMA work-study students and were open to all undergraduate students. In the spring of 2013, the Lucy Cross intern decided to revamp the discussions and model them after the center’s very successfully LGBT Roundtable Discussions. The new Lucy Cross Roundtable Discussions are sponsored by a student group or department. The sponsors work with the intern to choose a topic relevant to the campus today, select a day and time to hold the discussion and assist in advertising the discussion. One discussion held this past semester was Male Feminists and Female Misogynists, co-sponsored by Voices for Women.

Women in TV Nights
“Women in TV Nights” were started by the Lucy Cross Intern, Niki Inclan, during the Spring 2013 semester. The purpose of these events is to screen and discuss women in television through a feminist lens. Television shows with female leads are selected and shown in the Chase Hall Lobby periodically. This semester, episodes of “I Love Lucy” and “I Dream of Jeannie” were shown, followed by snacks and a discussion of what the shows had to say about gender roles, sexuality, expectations of women, depictions of female friendships, etc. They have been well attended so far and attract a mix of students and staff.
**Social Events**

This year, we celebrated Lucy Cross’ second birthday party in October. This was a celebration of the second year of the Center’s official establishment at Rollins College and was well attended by students, faculty and staff alike. With cupcakes and even a piñata of oppression, it was certainly a party fit for the Lucy Cross Center! In addition, we also held three TV nights in the spring semester (see p.2).

**Workshops**

There were six workshops and discussion groups that occurred during Fall and Spring semesters reaching over 100 students, faculty and staff. The first, a Validation Workshop was created as an opportunity for students to come and “get things off their chest.” The only rule for discussion in this workshop was one of mutual respect. As the election began weighing closer, a drop-in discussion was held to discuss the ways in which Election 2012 could effect women and their allies. At the start of the Spring semester, an LGBT Roundtable was planned and titled “Queer People of Color” in which the intersectionalities of racial, sexual and gender identity were further explored and discussed. As part of Women’s History Month, Lucy Cross was visited by representatives of The Wage Project in which a workshop was conducted on “Start Smart Negotiating Skills” to help women and men actively work towards receiving fair pay (see p. 5). An additional roundtable discussion occurred and highlighted “Trans Advocacy at Rollins” (see p. 4). Health issues are certainly prevalent for today’s women, and a Lucy Cross intern discussed the knowledge she gained while at a DC internship that focused on health related issues for lesbian, bisexual, ally and transgender women.

**Sponsorships**

Lucy Cross sponsored 7 events this year which reached close to 800 students, faculty, staff and community members. These included the first U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, a Jack Lane Colloquium discussion on “The Best Place to Raise Children,” a One Billion Rising dance strike in support of ending violence against women, a Muslim Women’s Diversity Panel, a workshop on Saving Queer Lives, the National Day of Silence, and a Fred Stone Theater production of “Parity Perspective.”
One Billion Rising
This was a global dance strike in support of ending violence against women and was organized by members of the Women's Studies Department. With a Zumba instructor for support, Rollins was encouraged to dance as well as enjoy cupcakes and brownies while spreading awareness of violence against women.

Trans Advocacy at Rollins: LGBT Roundtable
An roundtable discussion occurred and highlighted “Trans Advocacy at Rollins” in which students faculty and staff worked together to come up with better solutions on our campus for our transgender students. From both the academic affairs and student affairs side, as well as the student perspective, it became clear that Rollins can be an ally.

Muslim Women’s Diversity Panel
With the work of the Department of Politics and the POL360: Muslims in Western Politics, Rollins was able to hold a Muslim women’s panel. This helped to shed light on some of the issues that are prevalent for this population and what we can do to fix that.

$tar$ $ma$rt Negotiating Skills Workshop
Led by the American Association of University Women and The Wage Project, this workshop helped our young women and men learn the skills necessary in order to negotiate their way to receiving fair pay. By addressing the wage gap, it quickly became a realization that your first salary is critical to what your potential lifelong earnings could be. By giving the skills to empower those in their career salary negotiation, this workshop hopes to stop the wage gap before it even has a chance to begin!
Marketing Initiatives

Various marketing strategies were put into place this year to continue to brand Lucy Cross! Along with the wonderful posters that were created, Lucy Cross now has postcards which don the “I Love Lucy” theme. Lucy Cross has also changed their Facebook appearance and website and has plans to develop a video blog in the future. Our new e-mail address LucyCross@Rollins.edu has also enabled us to send campus-wide emails for our events.

“Like” us on our new Facebook page.

“Since Rollins College lacked any kind of book club when we first enrolled we decided to create one with the ambitions of creating a more educated student body who are aware of different points of view. By using Women writers and the issues they bring up in their literature as guides we are attempting to expand the definition of what it means to be Latina immigrant look like, what an Asian-American woman looks like, what a single mother looks like, what a homemaker looks like, what female writer looks like—ultimately what the female condition is in our world today. A human is never one single line, a single title, and if we see people as such, we deprive them of their humanity. We want to work towards the goal of having everyone write his or her own stories, creating a larger composite, a larger piece. This club emphasized the female condition in its content and authors—but this club is for both genders regardless of what the name and the content of the club. By unifying both genders we can ensure to create a more educated student group who is aware of the plight of women around the world.”

-Gaby Cabrera, President