In an election year, even as we plan to vote for the candidates that best represent our concerns, it is more important than ever that we do not allow mainstream politics and political agendas to eclipse our activism and our visions for social justice and true reproductive freedom. For this election season newsletter, we interviewed three people who are doing the important grassroots work to move our communities, as well as our government, in a more positive, inclusive, and humane direction.

What do you think is of particular importance in the 2012 elections (locally or nationally)?

Deborah Peterson Small, Executive Director, Break the Chains: Increased focus on income inequality and the consequences this disparity is having on our nation and its institutions. Also, the real power struggle that is taking place between those who want to move the country forward into the 21st century and those who want to take us back to the 19th. It’s a real struggle for power and control in which women, minorities, immigrants, and other marginalized groups are pawns.

Lucy Panza, Policy Analyst, Center for American Progress: I hope youth activism, particularly around reproductive health care and consumer rights, will determine who wins the national election. As for a political issue specifically, I think the health of our economy will have a big impact.

Jaymes Winell, Human Migration and Mobility Intern, American Friends Service Committee: In this economic moment when in the United States we have 25 million unemployed and severe economic exploitation internationally, the question of what kinds of jobs can be created and how is a crucial one.

With union-protected jobs and hopefully more action taken against banks that foreclose for profit, families and individuals will be more able to stay in their homes if they want to.

—continued on page 3
Civil Liberties and Public Policy is a national reproductive rights and justice organization dedicated to educating, mentoring, and inspiring new generations of advocates, leaders, and supporters. Combining activism, organizing, leadership training, and movement building, CLPP promotes an inclusive agenda that advances reproductive rights and health, and social and economic justice.

**PROJECTS**

**Annual Reproductive Justice Conference**
CLPP’s annual conference for student and community activists, *From Abortion Rights to Social Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom*, connects people to organizations and campaigns locally, nationally, and internationally, and provides them with information, analysis, and “how-to” organizing to bring back to their own campuses and communities. Join us next year, **April 12-14, 2013**!

**Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps (RRASC)**
RRASC is a national program that supports the leadership development of local students interested in connecting their academic studies to reproductive rights and social justice activism through paid summer internships.

**New Leadership Networking Initiative (NLNI)**
NLNI is a training and leadership-building network for new and emerging activists. Members work at a wide range of reproductive rights and social justice organizations and, through participation in the network, create new relationships and collaborations that are energizing and expanding the movement.

**CLPP Student Activist Group**
The CLPP student group consists of activists from the Five Colleges and broader community who want to develop their skills to organize for reproductive and social justice. The CLPP student group runs “Activist 101” trainings and is the driving force behind CLPP’s annual conference.

**Classes and Community Engaged Learning (CEL)**
CLPP and PopDev faculty and staff teach courses at Hampshire College that introduce students to a broad range of reproductive rights issues and the history of activism surrounding them. Local students can fulfill high school, college, and graduate-level community service and community engagement requirements through involvement with CLPP.

Contact us at clpp@hampshire.edu or 413.559.6976 for more info!
How candidates and community leaders approach the unemployment question is related to how they approach the homeless question, and it is high time that we and all politicians look closely and honestly at who is homeless: LGBTQIA folks, youth, veterans, differently abled people, the mentally unstable and, in all of these categories, [disproportionately] higher numbers of people of color.

Connected to these issues is the recent destabilization of constitutional rights such as the right to trial, the right to peaceably assemble and petition for a redress of grievances, the right to not be summarily executed—and the list goes on. Domestic surveillance that has heavy doses of racial, ethnic, religious, and gender profiling needs to be discussed without hysteria, fear mongering, or prejudice.

We are asked to accept the abuse of undocumented immigrants as part of restoring the rule of law, but as we cast votes, are these representatives going to uphold human rights? Or just the enforcement of broken laws?

**What is not part of the national debate right now that you think should be?**

**JW:** No candidates are currently talking about how to approach the Occupy/Decolonization movements and this question is of upmost importance. Outlawing protest where there is Secret Service protection is one of the first steps in creating a blueprint for fascism, and harkens to the Cold War when expression of certain ideas was a federal crime. Accepting, embracing, furthering, and deepening occupations of public and private space today is our method to reclaim and repurpose spaces and resources. How candidates discuss these occupations—which are more than protests because they are also constructing alternatives—will tell us much about them.

Locally, we need to be open about the fact that the Northampton, MA, police department, and many others, uses a dismally small number of racial categories in their incidence reports. This means that when they register an arrest they choose that person’s race or ethnicity from only three boxes: “Caucasian, black, and Asian.” I’m not kidding! The effect is that a huge number of people from only three boxes: “Caucasian, black, and Asian.” I’m not kidding! The effect is that a huge number of people are registered as Caucasian, which skews the police department’s numbers in relation to racial profiling. [Other] police departments do not even release these numbers so the public has no chance to assess or address racial profiling.

**DPS:** The corruption of our system of justice that has become the repository for the various social problems we prefer not to deal with: poor schooling, unemployment, mental health and substance abuse issues, poverty, economic exploitation. Instead of dealing with these very real issues we criminalize the people affected by them, thereby limiting their human potential and our future societal prospects.

Specifically, the impact and consequences of our long running “war on drugs” is not part of the national debate, despite the fact that it has caused the U.S. to become the world’s #1 incarcerator of its own people and has lost significant public support. Few people believe we can ever win a “war on drugs” and instead support legalizing some drugs like marijuana and discussing alternatives to current punitive drug policies. Nonetheless, with the exception of Ron Paul, such conversations are considered verboten by most politicians.

Recently, many leaders of our neighbors in the southern part of this hemisphere, from Mexico to Chile, have begun to speak out about the futility of the drug war and to call for a real conversation about alternatives. The U.S. has so far turned blind eyes to the unprecedented violence that has cost the lives of more than 50,000 people in Mexico alone, and deaf ears to the cries of leaders like Guatemala’s President Perez for the U.S. to take accountability for its role in continuing what has become a regional disaster.

**What in your ongoing work will continue despite the 2012 elections?**

**LP:** In the ongoing contraception debate, very few people have stopped to ask why we are even having this debate in the first place. One of the answers is because we lack a government-managed health care system for all, or what some call a “public option.” Because we rely on employers and schools to provide insurance coverage for most people (as employees, students, or beneficiaries of such a plan), we have to talk about employers’ and schools’ right to refuse certain health insurance benefits like contraception. If we effectively advocated for government-sponsored, universal health care coverage that included the full spectrum of health benefits, all the way from contraception to pre-natal care to abortion, this debate would be moot.

**What is not part of the national debate right now that you think should be?**

**JW:** We will push on with the Preserving our Civil Rights campaign, which seeks to curb domestic surveillance, assess and address racial profiling, and prevent enforcement of immigration laws in our community.

The Springfield No One Leaves project will also continue. This is a grassroots coalition, of which we are just one part, that fights foreclosures in Springfield, MA, and beyond. The bank tenant association model being used here will hopefully be a useful model for other regions.

Our anti-military recruiting will also continue in local high schools, since the effects of war on everyone involved (except those specifically profiting from war) is horrific.

—continued on page 7
Student Group Co-Coordinators Yasmine El Baggari and Lauren Casey welcomed participants to the Saturday plenary.

“Don't rely on the politicians – Republicans or Democrats. It's up to us! In 2008 we saw so much possibility, but we were blindsided by both resilience on the right and what became the all-too-familiar politics of compromise....”

- Marlene Gerber Fried, Civil Liberties and Public Policy

“We are not talking about reproductive rights. We are talking about creative rights. The right to create.”

- Julieta Paredes Carvajal

“We are not talking about reproductive rights. We are talking about creative rights. The right to create.”

- Julieta Paredes Carvajal

“Child services told me if I agreed to have a hysterectomy, I could have my youngest child back...

Prisons have no place in civilized society.”

- Kimberly Jeffrey, Justice Now

“The health of our people cannot be separated from the health of our environment... What we do to the earth we do to our own bodies...”

- Beata Tsosie-Peña, Tewa Women United

“When you're talking [about seven billion people] in terms of consumption, in terms of the actual use or waste of food, water, energy, space, and fuels, you're not talking about seven billion of the same thing.”

- Katie McKay Bryson, Population and Development Program

Watch video of these and more plenary presentations at clpp.hampshire.edu/video
At Sunday’s plenary, “We Are the Movement,” speakers concluded the weekend with reports from five strategic action sessions; then all participants engaged in small group discussions to make plans for bringing the work home.

Sunday plenary speakers (left to right, above) were: Tiloma Jayasinghe (Sakhi for South Asian Women), Reina Gossett (Sylvia Rivera Law Project), Lindsey O-Pries (National Network of Abortion Funds), Sanaz Shaghaghi and Audrey Silvestre (ImMEDIAtе Justice), and Jacqueline Patterson (NAACP).

Presenters from across the U.S. and abroad—students, activists, academics, and advocates—offered over 75 workshops and panels, including “2012 Elections: Representing Our Communities,” with (left to right, above): Sarah Audelo and Julia Reticker-Flynn (Advocates for Youth), Representative Ellen Story, and Deborah Peterson Small (Break the Chains).

Filmmakers sponsored by Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) in Ontario, Canada interviewed participants and speakers throughout the weekend for a documentary about reproductive justice (pictured above with speaker Mia Mingus from generation FIVE).

Advocates for Youth also took video on Saturday. They documented participants’ stories about abortion for their 1 in 3 campaign (www.1in3campaign.org).

Law Students for Reproductive Justice’s national policy fellows were one of several groups whose attendance was funded by CLPP and our donors. The fellows (pictured above) also took part in CLPP’s New Leadership Networking Initiative (NLNI) meeting before the conference.

See additional highlights, photos, blogs, and more at clpp.hampshire.edu/conference/2012
Akira Céspedes Pérez (Student Group, RRASC, Conference Co-Coordinator), who is currently teaching in Tulsa, OK, through Teach For America, brought her skills as a former CLPP/PopDev conference coordinator to the role of emcee for a second time at a new and growing reproductive justice conference in Norman, OK. The second annual Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice took place February 24-25, 2012, and CLPP was happy to be a sponsor. Akira said, “I am overwhelmed with pride for the students and local activists who are committing so much of their time and intellect to this fabulous event, making this conference not only memorable but also commendable.”

Destiny Lopez (NLNI, Conference) recently became a Principal at ConwayStrategic, a firm that specializes in issue advocacy for progressive causes. Previously, Destiny served as director of Latino engagement at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, where she significantly expanded PPFA’s capacity to engage Latinos as patients, advocates, and supporters. She has also served as a spokeswoman in major media outlets, including CNN, the BBC World News, the Los Angeles Times, El Diario, and Huffington Post Latino Voices.

Eesha Pandit (NLNI, Conference, CLPP staff) is the new Executive Director at Men Stopping Violence (MSV), a social change organization dedicated to ending men’s violence against women, based in Decatur, GA. Most recently Eesha worked as Women’s Rights Manager at Breakthrough, a global human rights organization that uses the power of media, pop culture, and community mobilization to inspire people to take bold action for human rights. At Breakthrough she worked on the Bell Bajoal! (Ring the Bell!) Campaign that asks men and boys to take action, get involved and help end violence against women. Eesha is also a prolific blogger; you can find her posts at crunkfeministcollective.wordpress.com and feministing.com.

Gina de Vries (RRASC, NLNI, Conference) has an essay titled “Girls” in the new anthology Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots?: Flaming Challenges to Masculinity, Objectification, and the Desire to Conform edited by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore. “The book is dedicated to exposing hierarchies wherever they exist,” the editor said in an interview for HuffPost Gay Voices. We can’t tell you more than that since both copies are checked out of the Five College libraries, but we are pretty sure it’s worth getting your own copy.

Every year, we work to make our programs more accessible to more people, and every year, we wish we could do more.

Your gift to CLPP and PopDev will help us close the gap so our conference—and all our programs—remain diverse and powerful.

Please use the enclosed envelope or go to http://clpp.hampshire.edu/donate and give as generously as you can.

Your contribution directly impacts participants of CLPP and PopDev’s new leadership projects—supporting travel stipends, internships, conference registration, and more.

THANK YOU!
Tell Us Your News
Have you participated in a CLPP program—taken a class, attended NLNI or the conference, done a RRASC internship, or attended a PopDev convening? We want to hear about your work, creations, or achievements. Send your news to kgood-schiff@hampshire.edu and we’ll help you spread the word via this newsletter and/or our blog!

CLPP Welcomes Kat Good-Schiff
Kat Good-Schiff has joined CLPP as our first Communications Associate. A graduate of Hampshire College, Kat worked as an organic gardener and environmental educator before earning an MFA in writing at Goddard College. She has held communications positions with the Ecological Landscaping Association and the Williston Northampton School. Now she works on CLPP’s communications projects including printed materials, the website and emails, social media, and other new media initiatives. Kat is looking forward to working with everyone at CLPP and PopDev!

CLPP Welcomes Katherine Castiello Jones
Katherine Castiello Jones is a Ph.D. candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she has also completed a graduate certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. Her research interests include sexuality, gender, culture, and religion. She is currently completing her dissertation, which examines groups that promote premarital sexual abstinence. Her dissertation prospectus was given the Ann Ferguson Feminist Activist Award in 2010. This spring, Katherine taught the CLPP course “Politics of the Abortion Debate” at Hampshire College. In the fall, she will be teaching at UMass.

Contributors
Deborah Peterson Small is the Executive Director of Break the Chains, an advocacy organization committed to addressing the disproportionate impact of punitive drug policies on poor communities of color. Break the Chains was founded in the belief that community activism and advocacy is an essential component of progressive policy reform. Break the Chains works to engage families and community leaders in promoting alternatives to the failed “war on drugs” by adopting public health approaches to substance abuse and drug-related crimes. Break the Chains is an advocate and voice for those affected most by drug policies but too often unheard in policy debates and decisions.

Lucy Panza is a Policy Analyst at the Center for American Progress’ Women’s Health and Rights Program. She is a reproductive justice fellow through Law Students for Reproductive Justice. Lucy received her J.D. from Georgetown and her B.A. from New York University. Her areas of interest and expertise include federal legislation, especially in health policy, student insurance, contraceptive coverage, and Latina reproductive rights. Prior to attending law school, Lucy worked as a paralegal in the Equal Employment Opportunity Project at the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, where she interviewed civil rights complainants and provided litigation support to plaintiff-side attorneys representing clients in employment discrimination cases.

Jaymes Winell, Human Migration and Mobility Intern with the American Friends Service Committee, is a Hampshire College student who has studied theatre and dance for community building purposes as well as United States history focusing on labor, racial justice, and feminist organizing in the 1920s and anti-Communism in later decades through the lens of family history.
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