We hope your summer is off to a great start! Please enjoy our Summer Update and read about our research on generational diversity, see what we are doing in the community, and meet some of our student researchers.

Rhonda M. Ware, Executive Director

The Alverno College Research Center for Women and Girls generates and applies scholarly research, develops curricula, and conducts program evaluation and outreach for the purpose of supporting, transforming and inspiring initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls in the state of Wisconsin and beyond.

**TAKING A LOOK AT MILLENNIALS**

**Generational Diversity: Characteristics and Values of Millennials in the United States and Wisconsin**

Authors: Amanda Page-Hoongrajok, B.A., and Kris Vasquez, Ph.D.

The Millennial generation, made up of individuals born between 1982 and 2000, is the largest generation in American history. Millennials are having a correspondingly large impact in social, economic, and political arenas. This influence on society has left many wondering, Who is the Millennial? Our research examines Millennials and their formative experiences to help better understand this large and powerful generation.

**A CONVERSATION WITH AMANDA PAGE-HOONGRAJOK**

Alverno alum Amanda Page-Hoongrajok (pictured at right) is an economics graduate student at Roosevelt University, Chicago. She teaches basic mathematics at a vocational school and just recently started teaching an introductory economics course at Alverno. To date, her work with the Research Center has involved projects dealing with generational diversity and the economic status of women in Wisconsin. Amanda will return to Alverno to teach in spring 2014.

**What were your thoughts doing this research as a Millennial?**

**Amanda:** As a Millennial writing about Millennials, I found that my experiences validated a lot of the data. I would catch myself thinking “That is so true” at things that were good (being technologically inclined), bad (being vain), and ugly (severe unemployment).

**How can this information be used by other generations to work with Millennials?**

**Amanda:** The report is written in a way that doesn’t just list qualities of Millennials but gives the reader a context in which to understand how Millennials are distinctive from generations before them.

**What impact would you like to see this research have on the community? Who would benefit from the information included in the report?**

**Amanda:** As the report states, Millennials are the largest generation in American history and will become an influential electorate in the near future. That alone should encourage community leaders, academics, and policymakers to find out as much as they can about them! This report can be used to start a conversation about Millennials and really dig in regarding who they are and why it matters.

**What have you enjoyed most about working at the Research Center?**

**Amanda:** The most enjoyable aspect of my work at the Research Center has been actually engaging with the research. It is refreshing to know that this is research that won’t sit on a shelf collecting dust. This research will hopefully inspire more questions and curiosity about this very fascinating generation.
IN THE COMMUNITY: RAISING AWARENESS TRAINING AT MUKWONAGO’S ROLLING HILLS ELEMENTARY

The Research Center visited Mukwonago’s Rolling Hills Elementary School to engage students in antibullying training. Trainers Nancy Athanasiou, Ashley M. Komorowski, Heidi M. Peppers, and Erin Szablewski introduced students to tools to confront bullying through a variety of activities.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MEET TWO OF OUR STUDENT RESEARCHERS — AMY MILLER AND TERRI WARD

What has it meant to you to be part of the Research Center team?

Amy: This experience has been such a blessing and a jump start to my career. I am so grateful for this opportunity!

Terri: Being part of the Research Center has meant growth, both personally and professionally. In addition to learning about specific constructs that will benefit my interpersonal and business relationships, I have grown in my ability to effectively serve the community through psychology, writing, and collaborative work.

What did you learn about conducting research?

Terri: I learned research is more than reporting. Research is always striving to hear another point of view. It challenges our claims to knowledge so that we stretch ourselves to learn and grow, finding ways to help us live better lives.

Amy: I have learned so much about research from working on projects, which has enabled me to understand my coursework so much better. I know that this experience is going to strengthen my academic performance in all of my future psychology courses.

What are your goals for the future?

Amy: I plan on applying for the master’s program in psychology at Alverno, and then I am going to go into a Ph.D. program somewhere. I am going to dedicate my education to victims of interpersonal violence.

Terri: My professional goals are to continue my education and work in psychology and writing. Specifically, I plan to continue to study theory, research, and their applications. I love people and ideas, and hope to continue to enjoy challenging work that combines these passions with the skills I am honing in the Research Center.

COMMUNITY BUZZ!

Research Center Executive Director Rhonda M. Ware appeared on Milwaukee Public Television’s 4th Street Forum. The forum, entitled “Women and Abusive Men: Changing the Story,” focused on identifying why some men victimize women and finding effective ways to change this behavior.