



WOMEN'S STUDIES BULLETIN

December 2005/January 2006

Table of Contents:

Events

- **Women's History Month Update**
- **Faculty Associates Event**
- **Women in Sports Day**

People

- **Associate in the Spotlight**
- **Alumna in the Spotlight**
- **Student in the Spotlight**

Accomplishments

Opportunities & Announcements

EVENTS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH UPDATE

In keeping with our theme for Women's History Month, "Celebrating 25 Years of Women's Studies at NIU: Re-Imagining Sisterhood," many of the events that we have planned will examine sisterhood from a variety of perspectives. Events include:

Wednesday, March 1

Join us for our second annual "This is What a Feminist Looks Like" Sticker Day. Stop by Reavis 103 to pick up a sticker and wear it with pride! Stickers are available after February 14, 2006.

Barbara Cole Peters, a private collector of women's 20th century fashions, will display a selection of red and black garments from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the President's Residence in DeKalb. Peters will speak at the event, titled "Lady in Red & Black: Ode to Northern Illinois University," and Nancy Jacobs will discuss how the situation for women in DeKalb has evolved over the past seven decades. Reservations are required and space is limited. Call (815) 753-1038.

An opening reception for the Women's History Month Annual Art Exhibit will be held from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the DeKalb Area Women's Center, 1021 State Street, DeKalb. Call (815) 758-1351 for gallery hours. The show runs through March 29.

Tuesday, March 7

Dr. Valentine Moghadam, Chief of the Gender Equality and Development section of UNESCO will give an

informal seminar titled, "Middle Eastern Feminism: The Challenges of Islamism, Imperialism, and Authoritarian States," at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room in the Holmes Student Center. Moghadam will focus specifically on feminism in the Middle East.

Wednesday, March 8

Dr. Moghadam will present a lecture titled, "Sisterhood and Strange Bedfellows: Feminisms in an Age of Empire," at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room in the Holmes Student Center. Moghadam will examine the challenges facing feminists today.

The International Women's Day Luncheon will be held in Adams Hall, Chandelier Room, at 11:30. Dr. Moghadam will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon. She will discuss feminism, legal reform, and women's empowerment in the Middle East.

Tuesday, March 21

Professor Kelli Lyon Johnson of Miami University Ohio-Hamilton will lecture on "Mapping Collective Memory in Chicana Literature: The Politics of Belonging," at 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of Holmes Student Center. Johnson will discuss the way in which Latina authors recover a sense of belonging and sisterhood in their literature through collective memory.

Wednesday, March 22

Professor Johnson will give an informal seminar titled, "Finding the Way Home: The Map in Native American Women's Writing," at 10:00 a.m. in Reavis Hall, Room 211. Johnson will address issues of belonging, particularly in regard to geography and the environment in Native American women's literature.

Thursday, March 30

A staged reading of Chicago playwright Sara Keely McGuire's play, "Triple Goddess," will be performed at 6:00 p.m. in the Diversions Lounge of Holmes Student Center. Following the performance, McGuire will lead a discussion.

For a complete list of activities, you can go to <http://www.clas.niu.edu/wstudies/whm2006.htm>, or call 753-1038.

FACULTY ASSOCIATE EVENT

A panel discussion, "Commander in Chief: Is the U.S. Ready for a Woman President?" will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Reavis Hall, Room 211. Come discuss questions like, "What are the political implications prospects of a woman becoming president in the U.S.?" and "What are the implications of the representation of the female president on *Commander in Chief*?" with panelists, Barbara Burrell, Associate Professor of Political Science; Lynn Kamenitsa, Associate Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies; and retired Professor of Communication and Women's Studies.

WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

February 11, 2006 NIU women's basketball team will play Kent State, beginning at 2:05 p.m. in the Convocation Center. In honor of "Women in Sports Day," girls wearing a uniform will not be charged an admission fee.

PEOPLE

ASSOCIATE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In honor of the 25th anniversary of Women's Studies, we are turning the spotlight on our Program Director, Amy Levin. Levin, who is an Associate Professor in English in addition to the Women's Studies Director, came to NIU in 1995. She received her Ph.D. in English from City University of New York in 1989. She also holds degrees in English from University of Colorado at Boulder (M.A.) and Harvard University (B.A.). Prior to joining NIU, Levin was a member of the English Department and head of the Women's Studies Program at Central Missouri State University.

Levin's father was an Associated Press journalist, which meant that she traveled a lot when she was growing up. She was born in New Delhi, India, and when she was a few months old her family moved to Rome, Italy. When she was nine, her family moved to Japan. She remembers cutting her ninth birthday cake with a sword! After living in Japan for 1 ½ years, Levin's family moved to London, England, where she lived until she graduated high school.

Levin became interested in feminist issues at a young age, when she realized that her parents treated her differently than her brothers. For instance, she says that there were fewer restrictions on how much, when and what her brothers ate. Although there were not any Women's Studies courses available when Levin was in college, her dissertation topic was related to feminist issues. Her dissertation research ultimately resulted in

the publication of her first book, *The Suppressed Sister: A Relationship in Novels by Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century British Women*, in 1992. Her second book, *Africanism and Authenticity in African-American Women's Novels*, was published in 2003.

As director of the Women's Studies program, Levin is able to offer valuable insights into the challenges and accomplishments of the program over the past decade. Amongst the accomplishments of the program that Levin lists are: the creation of the Mother's Memorial Scholarship, thanks in large part to the efforts of Lois Self and Carol Minor; the increased involvement of the Women's Studies program in math and science; and, the consistent growth in the number of students involved in Women's Studies. Many of the challenges that the program faces are, in fact, a result of the growth that the program has experienced. For instance, Levin says that as enrollment in Women's Studies courses increases, the need for additional faculty and assigned classroom space becomes more critical.

One goal that Levin would like to see the program accomplish in the future is to establish a Women's Studies major. Despite any challenges that the program faces, Levin is optimistic about its future. She looks forward to what the future holds for Women's Studies at NIU.

ALUMNA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As a continuation of our anniversary celebration, we thought it would be nice to hear from one of our former students, Kathryn Ranieri. Ranieri was one of the first students to complete the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She received her M.A. in Communications and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from NIU in 1992. Later, in 2002, she completed her Ed.D. in Instructional Technology at NIU. Currently, Ranieri is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Communication Department at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching, she has also done freelance consulting in Performance Management and Instructional Design for companies like Sears, United Airlines and Eli Lilly.

Since graduating from NIU, Ranieri has accomplished a lot. One project that she is currently involved in is implementing a critical media literacy program in what is known as the "Weed & Seed" neighborhood in Allentown, PA. The program introduces participating students to "documentary photography and digital imaging technologies and techniques." For the past year, the students have taken photographs of their neighborhood, which they have then altered with Adobe

Photoshop. According to Ranieri, the goal of the project is “to engage [the participants] in the collaborative and interactive process of imagining solutions to the problems facing their community, and by rendering those solutions visually, to see themselves as agents of community change.” The photographs and their digital counterparts will be included in a calendar and an exhibit, “In Our Own Eyes,” which will be on display in the Allentown Art Museum in early 2006.

Since receiving her Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate, Ranieri has maintained an interest in Women’s Studies issues. Her current research focuses on women’s health and “the disparities within [the] medical community for people of color or for people without health insurance.” In her spare time, she volunteers at a women’s clinic, where she escorts women and their companions from their car to the door of the clinic. Ranieri believes that “the value of a concentration in Women’s Studies comes from one’s expanded awareness of privilege, of media representations of cultural standards, or policies in government and organizations that are blind to equality and justice.” She recommends that students take at least one Women’s Studies course in order to expand their horizons.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Katie Breitenbach is our student in the spotlight. Katie is a sophomore English major and Women’s Studies minor. In addition to taking a full class load, she also works in the Women’s Studies office and the LGBT Resource Center. Katie plans to pursue a Ph.D. in English and wants to teach English at the college level in the future.

Katie says that she actually stumbled upon her interest in Women’s Studies. During her freshman year, she needed an additional course and “Women in Contemporary Society” (WOMS 230) was open, so she registered for it. After taking the course, Katie says that she “was hooked” on Women’s Studies. Since then, she has taken “Women Across Cultures & Centuries” (WOMS 235), and she is currently taking “Growing up Female” (WOMS 332). She is looking forward to taking courses that focus on women and literature in the future. She is particularly interested in historical fiction from the Elizabethan period, because she believes that Queen Elizabeth was “one of the first symbols of feminine independence.”

In addition to taking classes and working, Katie is also involved in a number of extracurricular activities. She is an active member of PRISM, a group dedicated to

educating the NIU community about LGBT issues. She is also a member of the Residence Hall Association, and she is on the executive board of the Hall Council for Stevenson North. Katie also sings in a choir and plays hand-bells at the First Lutheran Church of DeKalb.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alexandra Bennett’s article, “‘Now Let My Language Speak’: The Authorship, Rewriting, and Audience(s) of Jane Cavendish and Elizabeth Brackley,” was published in *Early Modern Literary Studies*, September 2005.

Barbara Burrell was a contributor to *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, edited by Susan Carroll and Richard Fox, and published by Cambridge University Press in December 2005.

Louise Ciallella has two publications forthcoming: “The Estranging of Franco’s Text and Mourning in El cuarto de atrás,” in H.Rosi Song and Eloy Merino, eds., *Traces of Contamination: Unearthing the Francoist Legacy in Contemporary Spanish Discourse* from Bucknell University Press; and “Making Emotion Visible: Felipe Trigo and La sed de amar (educación social,” in *Decimonónica*, Winter 2006.

Karen Hand was given the “Exceptional Contributions” award for KNPE instructors in May 2005.

Jennifer Lackey is co-editor and contributor to *The Epistemology of Testimony*, which is scheduled to be released by Oxford University Press in July 2006. Lackey’s article, “Testimony and the Infant: Child Objection,” was published in *Philosophical Studies* in November 2005.

Doris Macdonald was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholar grant to travel to Lithuania, where she will lecture at Vilnius University.

Kei Nomaguchi co-authored “Time Strains and Psychological Well-Being: Do Dual-Earner Mothers and Fathers Differ?” published in the 2005 issue of the *Journal of Family Issues*.

Kathleen Renk has a number of essays forthcoming: “Jane Eyre as Hunger Artist,” to be published in a special issue of *Women’s Writing* (U.K.) that will focus on the Brontes, edited by Janet Todd; “Magic that Battles Death: Pauline Melville’s Marvelous Realism,” will be in *Beyond the Islands: Extending the Meaning of the Caribbean*, to be published by Louisiana State University Press; “Debating Darwin: The Alchemy of A.S. Byatt and Pauline Melville” will appear in *Literature and Science*, edited by Cedric Barfoot.

Austin Sawicki took and passed the third of his four Philosophy comprehensive exams. Congratulations, Austin!

Lise Schlosser's poem, "The Only Thing Open on Christmas," will appear in the Winter 2005-2006 edition of *Fine Lines Literary Magazine*.

Kryssi Staikidis and Elizabeth Vallance both have work on display in the *Biennial Exhibition of Work by NIU School of Art Faculty* at the NIU Chicago Gallery. The show runs through February 25, 2006.

OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Center for Women's Studies in Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, is seeking participants for An International Human Rights Education Institute on "Women's Human Rights: Building a Peaceful World in an Era of Globalization," to be held May 1-June 9, 2006. For guaranteed consideration, application due date is February 15, 2006. For additional information, visit http://www1.oise.utoronto.ca/cwse/springinst_06.htm; email springinst@oise.utoronto.ca; or call 1-416-923-6641 ext. 2204.

The Global Media Journal, an online journal, is seeking articles for the graduate student section of an upcoming edition that will focus on issues related to women and media in countries outside of the United States. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2006. For submission guidelines, visit http://lass.calument.purdue.edu/cca/gmj/submission_guidelines.htm. For additional information, contact Jane Campbell at <mailto:campbelljane@sbcglobal.net>.

The 2006 NWSA Women of Color Caucus seeks submissions for its Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Student Essay Awards. The deadline is February 15, 2006. Visit www.nwsa.org/wocresources.html for further details.

The National Women's Studies Association seeks submissions for the NWSA Graduate Scholarship, the NWSA Graduate Scholarship in Lesbian Studies, and the Scholarship in Jewish Women's Studies. The deadline for all scholarship applications is February 15, 2006. For further details, visit www.nwsa.org/ssnwsa.html.

Outskirts: Feminisms Along the Edge, a refereed, online feminist cultural journal is accepting submissions. For additional information, visit <http://www.chloe.uwa.edu.au/outskirts>, or contact Dr. Alison Bartlett at Bartlett@arts.uwa.edu.au.

RHIZOMES, an online journal, is accepting submissions for an upcoming special issue, "Feminism's Others." Abstracts are due by March 15, 2006. For additional information, visit <http://www.rhizomes.net>.

The Third Annual Trans-Forming Feminism Conference will be held at the State University of New York at New Paltz on April 22, 2006, and is currently accepting proposals. The conference will explore "issues connecting and dividing the transgender and feminist communities." Proposals are due by February 18, 2006. Visit <http://www.transformfeminism.com> for additional information.

The University of Chicago's Center for Gender Studies is holding a day-long symposium, "Trans/Forming Knowledge: The Implications of Transgender Studies for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies," on Friday, February 17, 2006. Visit <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/transformingknowledgeconf.htm> for more information.

The University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center is accepting applications for fall 2006 enrollment in the Program on Domestic Violence, a "unique, one of a kind, master level program," for those interested in issues related to violence against women. For further information, call Barbara Pardiso, Director of the Center on Domestic Violence, at 303-315-2736, or visit www.cudenver.edu/gspa.

We invite submissions for future WS bulletins. If you know of any information that we should include in future bulletins, please email Rebekah Kohli at rkohli@niu.edu with subject heading "Bulletin." You may also call 753-1044.