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EVENTS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH UPDATE

This year, we have many events planned in relation to our Women's History Month theme, "Re-Defining Motherhood." Events include:

Wednesday, March 1

Join us for our third 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, 2007.

At 6:00 p.m., at the Nehring Gallery (111 S. 2nd Street, DeKalb), there will be an opening for the exhibition "The Little Black Dress," curated by Barbara Cole Peters, private collector of women's twentieth-century fashions. Sponsors: Nehring Center Gallery, NIU Alumni Association, School of Art, Dept. of Communication, School of Family, Consumer & Nutrition Sciences, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences External Programming, University Women's Club, College of Visual & Performing Arts, Women's Studies Program.

An opening reception for the Women's History Month Annual Art Exhibit will be held from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 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 30. Sponsored by the DeKalb Area Women's Center, Women's Studies Program and School of Art.

Monday, March 5

Dr. Susan Douglas, Catherine Neafie Kellogg Professor and Chair of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan, will introduce students to the process of

conducting research on women in the media, as well as methods for analyzing media images during an informal seminar titled, "Researching Women in the Media," at 3:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center.

Douglas will present a lecture titled, "The Mommy Myth—The Idealization of Motherhood and How It Has Undermined Women" at 7:00 p.m. in the Barsema Hall Auditorium. Douglas will examine the rise of "the new momism," a romanticized notion of the perfect mother whose standards of success are impossible to achieve.

Douglas's events are sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, Graduate Colloquium Committee, College of Business, Marketing & Political Science Departments.

Wednesday, March 7

The International Women's Day Luncheon will be held in Adams Hall, Chandelier Room, at 11:30. Chien-Juh Gu will discuss her research on Taiwanese women immigrants in the Chicago area and key points in their life cycles. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

Thursday, March 22

Dr. Elizabeth Beaulieu of Appalachian State University will give an informal seminar titled, "Food, Family, and . . . Marijuana? *Weeds* Re-Invents the Suburban Mother," at 9:30 a.m. in Campus Life Building, Room 100. Beaulieu will use issues related to race and class that emerge in Showtime's award-winning show *Weeds* as a catalyst for investigating stereotypes of motherhood within a context of feminist and African-American critical theory and scholarship.

At 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of Holmes Student Center, Professor Beaulieu will examine positive and negative depictions of motherhood in her lecture titled, "'Opaque with confusion and shame': Maternal Ambivalence in Rita Dove's Poetry." Beaulieu's lecture and seminar are sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and Graduate Colloquium Committee.

Monday, March 26

A staged reading of Lee Blessing's story of three generations of women, *Eleemosynary*, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. in the Diversions Lounge of Holmes Student Center.

Tuesday, March 27

At noon, in Reavis 103, the Women's Studies Program will sponsor a brownbag lunch event entitled, "The Politics of Race, Class, Gender & Nationality—U.S. Governmental Policy on International Child Abduction: A Mother's Perspective." Marla Buchanan will discuss her experience as the mother of an abducted child, and will examine U.S. policy on international child abduction. For a complete list of activities, please visit <http://www.clas.niu.edu/wstudies/whmcurrent.htm>, or call 753-1038.

UNTITLED: WHAT YOU DIDN'T READ IN THE NEWS TODAY

For the second year, the students in WOMS 432, "Feminist Theory," have created and published three issues of a zine. The zine articles and artwork present their research applying feminist theory to current social and scholarly questions. Keep an eye out on campus for *Untitled: What You Didn't Read in the News Today*; a different issue will come out each month in February, March, and April, or visit the Women's Studies webpage where you will find a link to the zines.

WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

The 21st annual "National Girls & Women in Sports Day" (NGWSD) will take place on February 7, 2007. The theme for this year's NGWSD is "Throw like a girl—Lead like a champion." In 1987, NGWSD was founded to honor Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman, who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. Hyman was known not only for her athletic abilities but also for her work to bring about equality for females in sports. (Source: National Association for Girls & Women in Sports)

PEOPLE

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Krystle Everett is a junior psychology major and Women's Studies minor. Everett was first introduced to Women's Studies related issues while taking SOCI 270, "Social Problems," with Kristen Myers. Then, after taking WOMS 332, "Growing Up Female," she decided to declare Women's Studies as her minor. Since then, she has taken a number of Women's Studies courses. Her favorite course thus far has been "Women in Contemporary America," in part because "Dr. Kamenitsa was a wonderful teacher."

Outside of the classroom, Everett is involved in a number of organizations, including Ebony Women and the NAACP. She can, in fact, be credited with bringing the Women in the NAACP committee (WIN) to NIU's campus. As a member of this committee, Everett has

organized a panel discussion, "Honor Thy Mother," which will take place during Women's History Month (March 5, 7:30 p.m.). This panel will examine issues related to motherhood in the African-American community, including the rise of single motherhood and its effect on the African-American community.

In the future, Everett wants to work with underprivileged women. One of her dreams is to open an outreach center for African-American women in Chicago. She would like to create a center that provides prevention, support and early intervention programs for victims of domestic violence, as well as programs for economic empowerment and family assistance. As part of domestic violence prevention, Everett hopes to teach young women to be independent, because she believes "the more self-esteem and independence a woman has, the less likely it is that she will stay in a violent relationship."

ALUMNA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In celebration of Women's History Month, we are highlighting Siew Sim Chin, a former Women's Studies graduate student and teaching assistant. Chin received her bachelor's degree in social science from the Universiti Sains Malaysia, and her M.Sc. in Human Settlements Development Planning from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. In May 2006, she graduated from NIU with her Ed.D. in Adult & Continuing Education and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. Currently, she is teaching "Introduction to Feminisms" at Beloit College, and applying for teaching positions at various colleges.

Chin's dissertation, "Learning beyond borders: a phenomenological investigation of transnational adult education," investigated the lived experiences of twelve female followers of the Baha'i religion. According to Chin, "their narratives offer deep insights into the struggles, challenges and, more importantly, the possibilities of finding agency in a transnational context through the space of religion." Spirituality has, in fact, always been an important part of Chin's life. She says that her involvement in Women's Studies helped her not only "find connections between the mind and spirit" but also provided her with an "academic language to frame . . . spirituality."

Another very important part of Chin's life is her children. Being a mother, a full-time student, and an employee wasn't always easy. "While going through school as a mother," says Chin, "I was often full of guilt." She felt guilty for "not spending time with the kids, having to give them frozen dinners, and in a way, rushing them

through the day because I was in a rush to find time to get through work, assignments, readings, etc. There was no luxury of spending long hours in the library. I would mostly stay up late after the children had gone to bed" to work on assignments and research. Yet, despite these challenges, Chin believes that her returning to school helped her children understand that "learning is lifelong," and today they are "a family learning together."

ASSOCIATE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Deborah DeRosa, an Associate Professor of English, received her B.A. in English from Barnard College of Columbia University in 1988. She then went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she received her M.A. in English in 1991 and her Ph.D. in English in 1998. DeRosa joined NIU in 2000. In 2004, she adopted Isabella, a beautiful little girl from China.

In addition to discovering "how to raise a two year old from China," DeRosa's current research interests include Confucianism in Amy Tan's "The Rules of The Game," late 19th-century women's ghost stories, and children's abolitionist literature published in *The Liberator*, a 19th century anti-slavery newspaper. Her interest in children's abolitionist literature, especially stories written by women, is long-standing. This, in fact, was the topic of DeRosa's doctoral dissertation, as well as her recently published books, *Into the Mouths of Babes: An Anthology of Children's Abolitionist Literature* (Greenwood Press, 2005) and *Domestic Abolitionism and Juvenile Literature: 1830-1865* (SUNY Press, 2003), both of which have received excellent reviews.

DeRosa was first introduced to Women's Studies when she took a seminar, "Women in Literature," during her freshman year at Barnard College. This, she says, "was the beginning of enlightenment," as well as of an enduring interest in women's literature. Now, she recommends that students should take at least one Women's Studies course, because "paying attention to women's voices, places, etc. in [areas like] literature, history, and economics will open participants' eyes to a host of new ideas," as well as an awareness of the situation for women in our own and other countries. "You may even decide to remain single, pursue a profession AND start a family," as DeRosa has done successfully.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ashleigh Burge had a paper accepted by the Mid-South Philosophy Conference, to be held at the University of Memphis, February 23-24.

Louise Ciallella's book, *Quixotic Modernists: Reading Gender in Tristana, Trigo and Martinez Sierra* is now available online (publication date, Jan. 30, Bucknell UP). Her article, "'Entre nosotras" and "Otras cosas": Notes on Feminine and Feminist Narrative Discourse in Women's Columns in El Imparcial, 1899-1902," was published in *Letras Femeninas* (vo. XXII, no.2). Finally, Ciallella will be presenting "De carne y hueso: / Constructing Spanish Women in Forgotten Bodies of Work from the 1890s," at an international conference at the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, in Spain this March.

Kerry Ferris's research on fan-celebrity encounters was quoted in the January 15 issue of *People Weekly*.

Kathleen Renk published an essay, "Myopic Feminist Individualism in A.S. Byatt's Arabian Nights' Tale: 'The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye'" in the *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 8:1 (Nov. 2006).
<http://www.bridgw.edu/soas/jiws/Nov06/index.htm>.

Austin Sawicki presented commentary, "On Margret Grebowicz's, 'On Being Against: Feyerabend and the Feminists,'" at the Illinois Philosophical Association. He will present "Constitutivity, Norms of Assertion, and Non-Epistemic Contextualism" at the Mid-South Philosophy Conference, to be held at the University of Memphis, February 23-24.

Virginia Wilcox-Gök presented a paper, "Old, Poor, and Depressed? Demand for Antidepressants among Older Women in the United States", at the meetings of the American Economics Association in January.

OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIU's Women's Studies Program may have available for the coming year one or more positions for a graduate teaching assistant. The position is open until filled, but we will begin reviewing applications on February 28. Visit <http://www.clas.niu.edu/wstudies/2007-08%20GTA%20info.htm>, or call 753-1038 for additional information.

NIU International House is sponsoring a trip to India from March 10-17. In addition to visiting tourist spots, the trip will feature a service/learning project to empower women in Jaipur. For more information, contact Nitin Goil at 753-9821 or ngoil@niu.edu.

Amherst College is accepting applications for a two-year visiting position in the Department of Women's Studies. Email WAGS@Amherst.edu for additional information.

Engaging Islam: Feminisms, Religiosities, and Self-Determinations, the 2007 Fall Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, is accepting paper proposals. Proposals are due by February 15. For more information, visit <http://www.engagingislam.umb.edu>.

eSharp, an online journal for postgraduates in the fields of arts, humanities, social sciences and education, is accepting submissions for its upcoming edition, "Gender: Power and Authority." Articles are due by February 28. For additional information, visit <http://www.sharp.arts.gla.ac.uk>.

Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Literature & Art is accepting submissions of poetry and short fiction for a special issue related to the theme of "women and war." Visit <http://opencampus.fccj.org/kalliope/k-contrb.html> for more information. Submissions are due by April 1.

The NWSA is currently accepting award applications for the **2007 Lesbian Caucus Graduate Student Scholarship Award**. This award provides a \$500 prize in recognition of a Master's Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation that focuses on "lesbian lives, identities, or realities and make(s) a contribution to the fields of lesbian and sexuality studies." Applications are due by March 1. For an application form and/or further information, contact Lisa Burke at lcchair@lists.nwsa.org, or visit <http://www.nwsa.org/scholarship/lcguide.php>.

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.