



February 2008/March 2008

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WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Women's Studies Program needs volunteers to help publicize and participate in events for Women's History Month in March. Stop by Reavis 103 if you would be interested in lending a hand. You may also call 753-1038 or email rkohli@niu.edu to find out more about volunteer opportunities.

EVENTS

LEARN TO COMMUNICATE BETTER WITH DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS

On Tuesday, February 12, the Women's Studies Program, Center for Access-Ability Resources, and DeafPride will offer a program that will enable faculty and staff to communicate better with deaf and/or hard-of-hearing students. Space for this event is limited. If you would like to participate, call 753-1038 by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, to reserve your space. For more information, email rkohli@niu.edu or call the number listed above.

TRAILBLAZER FOR EQUALITY

In honor of Black Heritage Month, Dr. Icilda Flournory will speak on Thursday, February 21, at noon in the Holmes Student Center, Capital Room South. Dr. Icilda Flournory, her husband Richard, and children were one of the first black families to live in DeKalb after World War II. In 1959, Icilda Flournory became Northern Illinois University's first female African-American Professor. Dr. Denise L. Rode, Director of Orientation

and First Year Experience, will interview Dr. Flournory about Dr. Flournory's amazing life story. Flournory will also share her perspective on how far we have come and what we can do to continue to improve race relations here at NIU. This event is sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Regional History Center.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH UPDATE

This year's Women's History Month has many events planned around the theme "Enterprising Women." The programs and activities will consider the many ways in which enterprising women gain accomplishments, break new ground, and make changes. All events are open to the public and (unless otherwise noted) are free. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request; call (815) 753-6515 (one week's notice is preferred). For further information or a complete listing of the activities, please visit:

<http://www.clas.niu.edu/wstudies/whmcurrent.htm>, or call 753-1038. Also, look for our posters designed by Kim Strom, a fine arts graduate student here at NIU.

Events Include:

"What is Feminism, Anyway?"

Diana Swanson, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and English, offers a presentation that will challenge stereotypes and misunderstandings about the nature and definition of feminism. Monday, March 3, 11:00-11:50 a.m., Holmes Student Center, Heritage Room. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and LGBT Studies Program.

Self-Defense Workshop

Lesley Rigg, Associate Professor of Geography, uses her black belt karate skills to teach women how to protect themselves. Monday, March 3, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program.

"This is What a Feminist Looks Like" Sticker Day

Stop by the Women's Studies office in Reavis 103 to pick up a sticker and wear it with pride. Take some extras and hand them out to your friends and classmates. Be a part of NIU's fourth annual "This is What a Feminist Looks Like" Sticker Day. Schools across the country have implemented Sticker Day at their own

institutions, so you will be part of a national event! Stickers are available after February 14th.

“Northern Illinois Women (1900-1949): Untold Stories”

Enjoy a presentation by Barbara Cole Peters on enterprising women at NIU. Dessert will be provided. The presentation will be on Wednesday, March 5, from noon-1:00 p.m. in Adams Hall, Chandelier Room. Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and NIU Alumni Association.

“Issues of Biography and Authorship in Women’s Science Fiction Writing”

Robin Roberts, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English and Women’s Studies at Louisiana State University, will address issues of feminist biography and female authorship especially in science fiction. Roberts’ presentation will take place on Wednesday, March 19, at 11:00 a.m in Reavis Hall, Room 211. Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program, Graduate Colloquium Committee, Department of English, and Founders Memorial Library.

“Female Aliens, Women Scientists, and Gender in *Star Trek* and *Battlestar Galactica*”

Robin Roberts will lecture on enterprising female characters in science fiction, especially in such series as *Star Trek* and *Battlestar Galactica*. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, March 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Campus Life Building, Room 100. Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program, Graduate Colloquium Committee, Department of English, and Founders Memorial Library.

“Vagina Seminar: Re-imagining Women’s Bodies”

One of the Women's Rights Alliance's most popular events, this seminar will tell you what you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. This is a two-part seminar. The first will be on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. and the second will be on Thursday, March 27th also at 7:00 p.m. in DuSable 204. Sponsored by the NIU Women’s Rights Alliance and the Women’s Studies Program.

“Necessary Feminists: The Feminist Presence in American Politics”

Associate Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies at Binghamton University, Benita Roth, will lecture on enterprising women in politics and on the role of feminist and feminists in U.S. politics. The lecture will take place Tuesday, March 25, at 11:00 a.m. in the

Holmes Student Center, Heritage Room. Sponsors: Women's Studies Program, Graduate Colloquium Committee, and Department of Sociology.

“Racial/Ethnic Feminisms”

Benita Roth will introduce students to the use of intersectional analysis in the study of social movements. This seminar will be based on Roth’s award-winning book, *Separate Roads to Feminism: Black, Chicana and White Feminist Movements in America’s Second Wave*. This event will take place on Tuesday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m. in the Holmes Student Center, Heritage Room. Sponsors: Women's Studies Program, Graduate Colloquium Committee, and Department of Sociology.

“From Hits and Beats to the Streets: Taking on Masculinity and Hip Hop”

Filmmaker Byron Hurt will join us for a showing of his film, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, followed by a discussion about hip hop music and masculinity. The showing will be Tuesday, March 25, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Holmes Student Center, Carl Sandburg Auditorium. Seats are limited so call to reserve (815)753-0329. Sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center, Campus Activity Board, NAACP, B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S., EBONY women, S.I.S.T.E.R.S., Black Male Initiative, and Women’s Studies Program.

“Enterprising Women Throughout History”

NIU history professors Rachel Hope Cleves, Sundiata Djata, Aaron Fogleman, Valerie Garver, and Eric Jones will discuss their research on enterprising women. This discussion will take place Monday, March 31, from noon-1:30 p.m. in Neptune Hall, Northeast and Southeast meeting rooms. Sponsored by the Department of History and the Women’s Studies Program.

I’M NOT A FEMINIST, BUT...

For the third year, the students in WOMS 432, Feminist Theory, have created and published three issues of a zine. This year, the zine is titled I'm Not a Feminist, But... The zine articles and artwork present students' research applying feminist theory to current social and scholarly questions. The zines consider the statement “I’m not a feminist, but...” by exploring feminist issues and relating them to those who do not identify as feminist. To view this year's issues, visit <http://www.clas.niu.edu/wstudies/zines.htm>.

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Siew Sim Chin will be the keynote speaker at this year's International Women's Day Luncheon. Chin will

discuss her research on women and transnational community from a Bahá'í perspective. The luncheon will be held in Adams Hall, Chandelier Room, on Friday, February 29, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center, Presidential Commission on the Status of Women and Women's Studies Program.

Alumna and former TA **Sandi Caldron**e is volunteering for the Youth Pride Center in Chicago. The center serves young gay men, primarily from the south side of the city. The youth are raising money to build their own center; currently, they meet in a church basement. If you would like to donate to the building fund, please contact Sandi at sistertaxa@gmail.com.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS STUDENTS

Caresse John will be an Assistant Professor of American Literature at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, next year. Her article, "Advocating the Personal," was accepted as a chapter in a book collection that will be published by Cambridge Scholars Press.

Austin Sawicki will present his thesis research, titled "Finding Culture in Life Goal Probability Judgments," at the Society for Anthropological Sciences Conference in New Orleans on February 20.

FACULTY

Kate Cady will present "Flexibility and Feminism: Attack on the Powersuited Woman" at the International Communication Association annual convention, in Montreal, Canada, in May 2008.

Mayra Daniel was inducted into Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. She also received the Jerry Johns Promising Researcher Award at the College Reading Association's Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Valerie Garver has been awarded a 2008-2009 Solmsen Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to work on her book project, *Textiles in the Carolingian World*.

Maryline Lukacher's book, *Autobiofictions: George Sand et le conflit de l'écriture* (New Orleans: Presses Universitaires du Nouveau Monde) came out in December 2007.

Amy Newman's essay, "Cheating on My Husband," was recently published in the *Seneca Review's* special issue "On the Lyric Essay." She has also published several poems in *Pebble Lake Review Audio Project*, including "Invocation" and "Absolution," as well as five "Dear Editor" poems in *Absent Magazine*. Her sonnet redouble, "The Sin Sonnets," was published in *Posse Review*, in a special issue on poetry and the body. Her interactive piece, "Among the Gospel Trees, the Only Moving Thing," which was created in collaboration with the media artists at FiveStone, has just launched at <http://www.bornmagazine.com>.

Kathleen Renk published "A World Turned Upside Down": The Hermetic Visions of Pauline Melville, Peter Ackroyd, and Lindsay Clarke," in the *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, volume 13:1.

Lise Schlosser presented her paper, "Movie Queen: Elizabeth Tudor and the Silver Screen," in February at the Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference: Living Remains, held at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for contributions for an essay collection on Marjane Satrapi's works. Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel, *Persepolis*, has been a success in France and the U.S. *Persepolis* has gained many prizes as both a book and film. Satrapi's other texts have been translated into numerous languages worldwide. The proposed collection aims to examine Satrapi's works as literature, art, film and cultural phenomena, bringing diverse ideological and theoretical perspectives to bear on the intellectual and political issues that they raise. Submissions are due by August 31, 2008. Send double-spaced, two-page abstracts to Colette Morrow at colettemorrow@aol.com, or fax: 708.524.8408.

NIU Women's Rights Alliance (WRA) meets Thursdays at 7:15pm in the Women's Resource Center, Blue Room. This semester, the WRA is working on two major events, *The Vagina Monologues* and *The Vagina Seminar*. They are looking for people to participate in both events, as well as to generate ideas for other activities and events. The Women's Rights Alliance's goal is to create a powerful feminist community of women and men at NIU and in the surrounding area. Visit <http://www.niuwra.com> for more information.

Questioning Youth Center (QYC) provides a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for adolescents, in order to facilitate ongoing personal growth and the development of a positive sexual identity, whether they identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. DeKalb drop-in group meetings for youth 14 to 18 are held Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Women's Resource Center, 105 Normal Road.

National Education for Women's Leadership is holding a 2008 summer institute jointly sponsored by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois (IGPA) and the Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly (COWL). This week-long institute for students develops women to be leaders in public service careers. The program takes place June 3-8, 2008, at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The application deadline is March 21, 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.igpa.uillinois.edu/NEWLeadership/>.

V to the Tenth, the tenth anniversary of V Day, will bring people from around the world together to celebrate the occasion as well as raise attention and funds for groups working to end violence against women and girls. There will be an international performance of *The Vagina Monologues*. Activists from many countries including Kenya, Iraq, and the Philippines will be present, in addition to celebrities, including Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, Ashley Judd, Eve, Joss Stone and Common. The celebration will take place April 11-12 2008, in New Orleans. For further information and to purchase tickets to the event, visit <http://v10.vday.org/>.

The Journal about Women in Higher Education is accepting research-based articles on important issues related to women in higher education. Abstracts are due by March 15, 2008. For additional information, email jawhe@naspa.org, or visit <http://www.naspa.org/programs/centerforwomen/jashe.cfm?s=4>.

The Association for Research on Mothering (ARM) is accepting submissions for an issue on mothers and daughters. Submissions must be received by May 1, 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.yorku.ca/arm/vol10no2.html>, or email Renée Knapp at arm@yorku.ca.

Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies is seeking submissions for a special issue on the topic of feminist epistemology, methodology, and science and technology studies. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Fonow at mfonow@asu.edu, or visit <http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/frontiers/submit.html>.

We invite submissions for future bulletins. If you have information, please email Rebekah Kohli at rkohli@niu.edu with subject heading "Bulletin." You may also call 753-1044.