

WOMEN'S STUDIES BULLETIN

MARCH/APRIL 2009

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH UPDATE

This year's Women's History Month theme at NIU will focus on "Women, the Environment, and Sustainability."

"People attending our events will have opportunities to build solar panels, drill for environmental reasons, and find out what NIU does to recycle," said Amy Levin, director of the Women's Studies Program. Levin is also excited that the program will be offering its first event for alumni in Chicago, and that its national effort, "This is what a feminist looks like" sticker day is in its fifth year.

A complete schedule of lectures, exhibits, performances and other activities can be found [online](#).

Events Include:

Monday, March 2

The month long celebration will kick off with a self-defense workshop presented by Lesley Rigg, who will teach women how to protect themselves in their environment. The workshop is from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in Anderson Hall, Room 102.

Tuesday, March 3

NIU will celebrate its fifth annual "This is What a Feminist Looks Like" Sticker Day, showing the community the many faces of feminism. Stickers are available in Reavis Hall, Room 103.

Bring your lunch and join us in DuSable Hall, Room 276 at noon when NIU's Recycling Specialist Mary Crocker will discuss NIU's efforts to be an "earth-friendly" campus.

Wednesday, March 4

Diana Swanson, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and English, will examine the connections between environmental activism and feminism. This event takes place at 3:30 p.m. in Holmes Student Center's Heritage Room.

Thursday, March 5

Today at noon, Kimberly Lombardozzi, Sustainability Manager for the Mohawk Group, and Mari Anne Wohlfeil, Commercial Sales Manager with Dal-Tile Corporation, will explore the challenges of attaining environmental sustainability in building and

manufacturing. This discussion will take place in DuSable Hall, Room 302.

Tuesday, March 17

Tiffany Holmes, Associate Professor and Chair of Art & Technology Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, will give two presentations on the ways that art and technology may combine to encourage ecologically responsible behavior: "Greenmedia Futures: Art & Technology to Promote Sustainability," at noon in Holmes Student Center's Heritage Room and "DIY Eco-Tech: Solar Panel Sculptures," at 2:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

Wednesday, March 18

Janet Smith, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood & Community Improvement at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will give two presentations focusing on the challenges low income women and women of color encounter in finding environmentally sustainable housing: "Trading Off or Trading Up for Housing?" At 2:00 p.m. in Room 100 of the Campus Life Building, and "A Woman's Place is in a Green Kitchen," at 6:00 p.m. in Holmes Student Center's Heritage Room.

Thursday, March 19

NIU alumna Jolene Skinner will give a keynote talk about her work with Dell's award winning work-life program. Skinner is currently a Talent Management Senior Consultant for Dell. A reception will follow Skinner's talk. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Chicago-Marquette Room, 720 South Michigan Ave. The event is free for NIU Alumni Association Cardinal and Black members and \$10 for non-members.

Monday, March 23

The Women's Rights Alliance will present part one of their "Vagina Seminar," in DuSalbe Hall, Room 140. Part two will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 in DuSable 148. Come learn what you've always wanted to know but were afraid to ask.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Inside this issue:

Women's History Month Update	1-2
Upcoming Events	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6



Look for our Women's History Month posters designed again this year by [Kim Strom](#), a fine arts graduate student here at NIU.

Northern Illinois University Women's Studies Program

Reavis Hall, Room 103
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: 815-753-1038
Fax: 815-753-1074
Email: womenst@niu.edu
Visit us on the web at:
www.niu.edu/wstudies

Director: Dr. Amy Levin

WOMEN'S STUDIES BULLETIN

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH UPDATE CONTINUED

Wednesday, March 25

At 5:00 p.m. in Eco-Park (north of Stevenson Towers), Melissa Lenczewski, Associate Professor of Geology and Environmental Sciences, will showcase a method of drilling for soil and water in environmental investigations using the Geology department's Geoprobe 6600. Participants will gain hands-on experience with the drill. For safety reasons, all participants must wear jeans and closed-toe shoes. Hardhats, safety glasses, and ear plugs will be provided.

Thursday, March 26

Margaret Asalele Mbilizi, Assistant Professor of Counseling, Adult & Higher Education and Director of International Initiatives, will discuss her sustainable livelihood improvement program

for women in Malawi. She will describe practices that facilitate community involvement in poverty reduction while empowering women and girls to take control of their lives. Her talk will begin at noon in the Holmes Student Center's Regency Room.

Event sponsors include the NIU Women's Studies Program; Graduate Colloquium Committee; NIU Alumni Association; College of Engineering & Engineering Technology; School of Art; Division of Public Administration; Departments of Political Science and Geology; Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education; and NIU's Women's Rights Alliance.



"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Silent Spring: A Screening and Discussion"

Join us on **Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00** to view and discuss PBS's "American Experience: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*," led by Lesley Rigg, Associate Professor of Geography. The event will take place in the Women's Resource Center's television room (upstairs). Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, Department of Geography, and Women's Rights Alliance.

"Past, Present, and Future: The Women of Environmental Science"

On **Monday, April 13 at noon**, Lesley Rigg will discuss women environmental scientists in DuSalbe Hall, Room 276. Bring your lunch and join us for this fascinating discussion. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and Department of Geography.

Prominent LGBT Scholar to Speak at NIU

Toni McNaron, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Minnesota and author of numerous books, will present a lecture and seminar as part of NIU's celebration of LGBT Awareness Month. Her lecture, "Metaphors from the Closet, Plain Speech from the Outside: Gains and Losses in Contemporary Lesbian and Gay Writing," will take place on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in DuSable Hall, Room 204. McNaron's seminar, "Poisoned Ivy? Lingering Homophobia Within Academe," will be in the Rare Books room of Founders Memorial Library (4th floor) at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24.



Toni McNaron
Professor Emerita of English
University of Minnesota

CELEBRATING AUSTIN SAWICKI



Austin with his beloved niece Maren

Austin Sawicki, former Women's Studies teaching assistant and graduate student in Philosophy and Anthropology, would have turned 27 on March 24. He was the kind of individual who made others happy to be in his presence because he was so clearly passionate about his work and educating others. Students who knew Austin found him a ready listener, generous with academic and personal advice. Austin was killed in a construction accident last May, but we will be remembering him on his birthday and when we award the first Austin Sawicki scholarship in April. The scholarship recognizes students who share Austin's intellectual curiosity, feminism, and service ethic; contributions are welcome at any time. Please send checks made out to the NIU Foundation with Austin's name in the subject line to the Women's Studies program. For more information on the scholarship or how to contribute, call 753-1038 or email womenst@niu.edu.

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT— REMOVED

FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENT NEWS

Josh Adair accepted a tenure-track 20th century British literature position at Murray State University in Murray, KY. He successfully defended his dissertation "Sanctuary: Nurturing Gay Narrative Space in World War Literature" on February 2, 2009.

Chris Blankenship presented "Montaigne and the Sophist Tradition" at the 5th Annual MadLit conference in February at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Lise Schlosser presented "'Men shall have no cause to feare': Margaret Cavendish's Authorizing Strategies" at the 5th Annual MadLit conference.

FACULTY NEWS

Barbara Burrell's "Likeable? Effective Commander in Chief? Polling on Candidate Traits in the 'Year of the Presidential Woman'" was published in *PS Online* 41.4 (2008). A copy of this article is in the Women's Studies library.

Kate Cady "Labor and Women's Liberation: Popular Readings of *The Feminine Mystique*," will appear in the Fall 2009 issue of *Women's Studies in Communication*.

The prospectus for **Amy Levin's** new reader on gender, sexuality, and museums has been accepted by Routledge. The book will be published in 2010 and will include articles by **Robert Ridinger** and **Joshua Adair**.

"Exudate feeding in *Callimico goeldii*," co-authored by **Leila Porter**, was published in the *American Journal of Primatology* 71.2 (2009). Porter also presented four papers in 2008, including two papers in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Rob Ridinger was one of twelve writers and researchers from across the U.S. invited to participate in the "Speaking About the Unspoken" conference held at the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, February 6-8, 2009. The aim of the conference was to promote discussion both on academic input to the Archives development and the future of research on the leather and fetish communities within the contemporary social sciences and humanities.

Debbie Smith-Shank published three articles in 2008: "Three art educators in cancerworld," which she co-authored, appeared in the *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education* 26; "Visual culture and issues-based curricula" was published in *Australian Art Education* 31.1; "Visual

Culture and Visual Pedagogy" was published in *Visualidades* 4. Smith-Shank presented numerous papers in 2008, including two presentations in Japan and two presentations in Australia.

Carol Thompson and her collaborators from Argonne National Laboratory published an "Reversible chemical switching of a ferroelectric film," which appeared in the January 30, 2009 issue of *Physical Review Letters*. The peer-reviewed article, was chosen for the distinction of an "Editors Suggestion" logo, and the results were also chosen as the subject of a "Viewpoint" commentary in the American Physics Society on-line general interest journal "Physics". Thompson is an invited speaker at the Metals, Mining, and Materials Society annual meeting in San Francisco in February, where she will be discussing this work and more recent results from these studies.