

# N Women's Studies

University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
Fall 2005 *Newsletter*

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## Women's Studies Faculty Earn Honors

It has been a year of high achievements for Women's Studies faculty members. Several have been awarded prestigious honors.

Stephanie Adams has been awarded a fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Foundation. Adams, an associate professor of industrial and management systems engineering and assistant dean for research in the College of Engineering and Technology, is spending the year in Washington, D.C., working in NSF's Directorate for Engineering, Division of Engineering Education and Centers.

Ruth Nissé has been selected by the National Humanities Center as one of 39 fellows for the 2005-06 academic year. The fellows were chosen from more than 500 applications to spend the year conducting research at the center in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Nissé, an associate professor of English who specializes in medieval and early modern literature, will be working on a project titled "Jacob's Shipwreck: Powers of Diaspora in the Postbiblical Literature of the Jewish and Christian Middle Ages."

Mary Jo Deegan was awarded the 2005 Distinguished Scholarly Book Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on the History of Sociology. Deegan, a professor of sociology, and Michael Hill, editor of the journal *Sociological Origins*, were given the award for their edition of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Social Ethics: Sociology and the Future of Society*. *Social Ethics*, written in 1914, was discovered by Deegan and Hill after years of archival research. The award selection committee praises Deegan and Hill's edition for "making it easily accessible and understandable to those who have not yet discovered and are not already familiar with [Gilman's] work."

*Please see page 3 for more Women's Studies faculty achievements.*

## From the Director...

It's an honor to serve as Women's Studies director for 2005-06. Joy Ritchie, who was our able and dynamic director for the last five years, is now chair



of the UNL English Department. Margaret Jacobs, who will begin a full term as Women's Studies director in the fall of 2006, is on fellowship this year, concentrating on her research and writing.

Women's Studies is a dynamic and growing program. Our curriculum continues to expand into new areas. The Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee recently approved new courses in Introduction to LGBT Studies, Feminist Theories/ Feminist Perspectives, the History of Sexuality in the 19th and 20th Century America, and Activism in Feminist Communities. Our existing courses are full and several courses for the spring semester have waiting lists. New Women's Studies majors and minors continue to walk into the office or contact us by email almost weekly.

The new minor in LGBTQ/ Sexuality Studies which Joy and others initiated last year has also been approved by the Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee and should be available for students next year. In conjunction with the minor, the Women's Studies Colloquium Series this entire academic year

*Continued on page 6...*

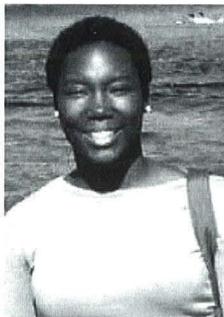
# Women's Studies Newsletter

## Women's Studies Welcomes New Faculty

**Kalenda Eaton**, English (Ph.D. The Ohio State University)

Eaton earned her Ph.D. at the Ohio State University and has conducted diverse research involving representations of Black women in British literature, the mis-representation of female characters in satirical neo-slave narratives, and the postcolonial female voice in African and Caribbean novels. Her dissertation project examined representations of community activism in literature written by African American women during the post-Civil Rights era.

She teaches gender-specific courses and frequently engages her students in feminist theory and womanist theory. She teaches English 244B, Black Women Authors, as part of her regular course rotation and is interested in developing cross-listed courses to highlight the importance of women's literature of the African Diaspora and women's contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Eaton is currently working on two research projects focusing on Black women writers and the late 20th Century.



Dr. Homestead teaches undergraduate English classes on Willa Cather and on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women Writers, and she hopes to develop a 300-level cross-listed English and Women's Studies class on 19<sup>th</sup>-century American women writers. When she's not in Andrews Hall, you can find Dr. Homestead at the Holmes Lake Park Dog Run with her basset hound (Helen) and her short-legged mutt (Florence) or at home hanging out with her four cats (Isobel, Grace, Betty, and Marjorie).

**Susan Wortmann**, Sociology (Ph.D. University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Dr. Wortmann received her Ph.D. in Sociology from UNL. Her dissertation was entitled: "Sacred Solace? Exploring Faith Community Responses to Domestic Violence." She has published "Teaching Sociological Concepts and the Sociology of Gender" in *Talking Gender*, ed.

Marybeth C. Stalp and Julie Childers (American Sociological Association, 2005); "Women's Reproduction: Issues and Inequalities in the 21st Century" (Network News, Sociologists for Women in Society, 2003), and several other pieces. She describes her research program as focusing on women and their structurally unequal experiences within social institutions.

From 2003-05 Dr. Wortman taught Sociology and Gender Studies at Augustana College, where her courses included Sociology of Gender, Introduction to Gender Studies, Applied Sociology, Sociological Theory, Social Inequality, Native American Social Systems, and Senior Capstone:

Voice of the Other. Wortmann has also presented more than a dozen conference papers, including "Balancing Work and Home: Academic Mothers of Chronically Ill Children," "Faith Leaders Respond to Domestic Violence," and "Through the Eyes of the Beholder: A Feminist Perspective on American Beauty."

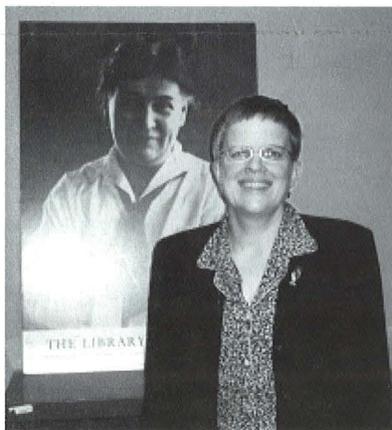
Wortmann is also active in service locally and regionally. She is coordinator of the Annual Paper Competition for the Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society, a reviewer for the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* and *Marriage and Family Review*, is currently on the Board of Directors of the Sioux Falls Rape Domestic Abuse Crisis Center, and has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Family Violence Council and Nebraska Interchurch Ministry. In 2002, she was the graduate student representative on the UNL Women's Studies Advisory Board.



**Melissa Homestead**, English (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania)

Homestead received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and she joined the faculty at UNL in 2005 as an associate professor of English. Her research focuses on the history of American women's literary authorship from the Early Republic through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her book *American Women Authors and Literary Property, 1822-1869* examines how popular white women novelists negotiated copyright law, as well as laws restricting the ability of married women to own property.

Homestead is currently working on two new projects. The first is a study of the career of Catharine Maria Sedgwick, a popular fiction writer of the antebellum period. The second is a study of Edith Lewis, a career woman who shared a home with novelist Willa Cather for nearly four decades. (Like Cather herself, Lewis spent most of her life in New York, but spent her childhood in Nebraska – she was born and raised in Lincoln, and she spent her freshman year at UNL before transferring to Smith College, a women's college in Massachusetts, which, not coincidentally, is Dr. Homestead's undergraduate alma mater.)



## Faculty Achievements

**Rose Holz** (History) published "Nurse Gordon on Trial: Those Early Days of the Birth Control Clinic Movement Reconsidered" in the *Journal of Social History* (Fall 2005: 112-140).

**Grace Bauer** (English) has published poems in recent issues of *Comstock Review*, *Gargoyle*, *Margie*, *Puerto Del Sol*, and *White Pelican Review* and a creative nonfiction essay, "House and Home," in the latest issue of *South Dakota Review*. Her new book of poems, *Beholding Eye*, is due out this spring from WordTech Communications' Custom Word Editions.

*PRAIRIE SCHOONER*, edited by **Hilda Raz** (English), has won the 2006 O'Henry Prize for Susan Fromberg Schaeffer's story "Wolves." "We're proud to be part of this distinguished national award series," writes Raz.

**Margaret Jacobs** (History) presented a keynote lecture at the Gendering Border Studies Conference at Glamorgan University in Cardiff, Wales, in October. Dr. Jacobs was also awarded a grant from the Spencer Foundation to finish her book manuscript, "White Mother to a Dark Race," regarding the role of white women in the removal of indigenous children from their families to institutions in the United States and Australia between 1880 and 1940.

**Tom Carr** (Modern Languages) published "«L'Arbre» de Gabrielle Roy: Une hirondelle d'hiver dans un chêne vert de Floride" in *L'Ouest. Directions, dimension et destinations: Actes du vingtième colloque du Centre des études franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest* (Winnipeg: Presses universitaires de Saint-Boniface, 2000: 501-518).

**Victoria Smith** (History) served as the editor for Hollis D. Stabler's *No One Ever Asked Me: The World War II Memoirs of an Omaha Indian Soldier*.

In September **Chantal Kalisa** (Modern Languages) published *Dix ans après: Réflexions sur le génocide rwandais* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2005), a volume she co-edited and to which she contributed a chapter and a translation.

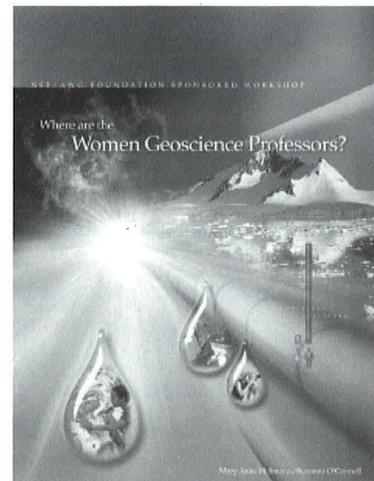
**Helen Moore** (Sociology) received the Family Violence Council 2005 Advocate Award for her work with R/SACC and is co-director of a National Institute of Health grant (Career

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Opportunities in Research) that provides support to Native American students (juniors and seniors) studying traditional cultural approaches to mental health research and interventions.

### Mary Anne Holmes

(Geosciences) has co-authored a workshop report, "Where Are the Women Geoscience Professors?", with Suzanne O'Connell. They looked for where women are lost in the academic pipeline for Geosciences and found the answer to be



between the Ph.D. and the first academic position. Through focus groups and interviews Holmes and O'Connell identified several reasons for the exodus: the belief that an academic career is incompatible with family life, little interest in gender diversity on the part of many departments, and the lack of professional development and informal mentoring of female graduate students. The report is available online at <http://www.awg.org/>.

**Maureen Honey** (English) is publishing a revised and expanded edition of *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* (Rutgers University Press 2006). The anthology, first published in 1989, was the first to reprint poetry by women of the Harlem Renaissance and has never gone out of print. The expanded edition will double the amount of poems, add 18 new writers, include period illustrations and provide biographical material on each writer. A documentary in which Honey appears, "Government Girls of World War II," was recently broadcast on NETV. The film, released in 2004, concerns the influx of women into Washington D.C. to fill an unprecedented number of clerical jobs in government agencies. Many African American women were hired for these jobs, which represented an important breakthrough in the segregated racist job market. The documentary was made by a former producer for Tom Brokaw of NBC and is narrated by Cokie Roberts.

**Kalenda Eaton** (English) contributed an article on Carlene Hatcher Polite to *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature*. (Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Eds. Portsmouth: Greenwood Publishing Group. September 2005) and gave a presentation entitled "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land: Race Matters, Domestic Terrorism, and Gender Politics in the African American West" at the American Literary West I: International Conference at the Universidad de Pais Vasco in Vitoria, Spain, in October.

## Dean's List

Women's Studies had an all-time high number of students earn a spot on the Arts and Sciences Dean's List for the Spring of 2005. Each student achieved a semester GPA of at least 3.7.

**Congratulations!**

- Christine Black
- Rachel Groothuis
- Jennifer Hoemann
- Stacy Prochaska
- Jillian Savage
- Rachel Kaiser
- Angeline Petak
- Katie Starman
- Katie Taylor

## Fall Colloquium Series Explores LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies

**September Colloquium: "What is LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies and Why Does it Belong in a University?"**

--by Melanie Hellwig and Ryan Fette--

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John Younger, Professor of Classics and Humanities and Western Civilization at the University of Kansas, facilitated this panel discussion featuring UNL faculty members Rose Holz, History and Women's Studies; Amelia Montes, English, Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies; Barbara DiBernard, English and Women's Studies; and Deb Hope, Psychology.

Younger discussed his experience with LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies classes as a professor at the University of Kansas. The UNL faculty discussed their experiences in teaching courses associated with LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies here at UNL.

So what is LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies? Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer studies allow us another lens with which to view gender and sexuality. These courses dissect the components of sexuality with attention to historical perspectives, social constructions and literature written by individuals of these communities. They look into the lives of individuals on all levels and the importance of their experiences with regard to themselves, their communities and the society at large.

The main question discussed at the colloquium was why students would be interested in taking these classes. These courses offer an unbiased view of people in the LGBTQ communities and offer insight into the lives of individuals and

groups, which may be similar to or different from those of the students. The fact that UNL will offer this minor also adds to the legitimacy of these experiences, which is important. Additionally, by better understanding this realm of Sexuality Studies, a student can learn to dissect gender and sexuality stereotypes as well as truths, and learn to better formulate opinions and understanding in this area. These courses will provide an important tool for LGBTQ students in understanding their past and help them to be agents of change in the present and the future. The courses associated with this line of study



Panel members speak to a crowd of about 30 students and faculty..

also provide valuable knowledge to help non-LGBTQ individuals be better allies to the LGBTQ communities. Also discussed was that although UNL will offer a minor, these valuable courses will remain open to students from all disciplines.

*Melanie and Ryan are both Women's Studies students.*



Audience members listen intently to the panel on LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies.

**After the newsletter went to press, Dr. Jennifer McKittrick, associate professor of philosophy and member of the Women's Studies faculty, spoke at the Women's Studies November Colloquium, giving a presentation entitled "Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation" on November 17.**



John Younger, Rose Holz, Barbara DiBernard, Amelia Montes, and Deb Hope were panel members at the September Colloquium.

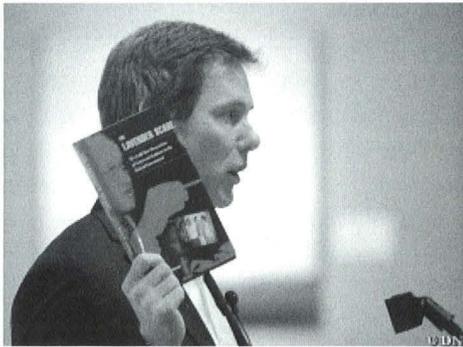
*Visit our website:*

<http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/wshome.html>

**October Colloquium: "Nebraska's Lavender Scare: Sen. Kenneth Wherry and the Cold War 'Purge of the Perverts'"**

--by Tristan Saunders--

On Tuesday, October 25, David Johnson, Professor of History at the University of South Florida, gave a presentation based on his book, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*. The turnout was far greater than anticipated, and row after row of extra seats were brought out in order to accommodate the large crowd that had gathered to listen to him speak at the Great Plains Art Museum.



David Johnson speaks at the October Colloquium. Photo by Kris Kolden, *Daily Nebraskan*

In his talk entitled, "Nebraska's Lavender Scare: Senator Kenneth Wherry and the Cold War 'Purge of the Perverts,'" Dr. Johnson began by illustrating the character of Senator Wherry and his role in the lavender scare as a component of Red Scare and Cold War politics. He went on to discuss Wherry's almost laughable claim of being an "expert on homosexuality," the security risks associated with the perceived vulnerability to blackmail of homosexuals in the State Department, the supposed immorality leading to the downfall of the country, and the anxious search for some way to distinctively associate communism with homosexuality.

What was perhaps most interesting about his talk were his final remarks. As Dr. Johnson wrapped up his presentation on the unprecedented bigotry created and publicized by Senator Wherry, he offered a parallel between the rhetoric used in politics today and the political discourse of Senator Wherry. Johnson also offered a new way to understand Wherry's legacy. Instead of trying to forget the discriminatory actions of Senator Wherry, Johnson suggested, perhaps we ought to remember him as the inadvertent helper in the civil rights struggle, for it was actions such as Wherry's that in turn gave rise to the movement for gay rights.

***Congratulations,  
Sallie Alswager***

**Women's Studies Minor  
December Graduate**

# **Women's Studies**

## **Alumnae Updates**

Becca Kaiser writes from Massachusetts, "I finally found a great use for my joint degrees from UNL – using my women's studies knowledge in the political sphere." Kaiser, a December 2002 graduate with a degree in political science and women's studies, is working for Massachusetts NOW, the largest statewide NOW chapter in the country, as the Legislative Organizer/Lobbyist. She writes, "What's perhaps most exciting to me is that the organization is really driven by younger women professionals. I don't know how they've managed to avoid the more national trend of the aging women's movement, but they have, and it's exciting!"



Miranda Swanson, 2004 Women's Studies graduate, is in Arizona studying to be a physician's assistant.

Miranda Swanson, a 2004 graduate in biopsychology and women's studies, is pursuing a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona. After spending a year in the classroom learning about pharmacology, anatomy, disease states, and patient welfare, Miranda writes that this year she is in the field, completing eight six-week rotations. Currently she is in Prescott, Arizona (one hundred miles north of Phoenix) completing a rotation in family medicine. In January she is bound for south Chicago to complete an emergency room rotation at the John H. Stroger Hospital, and in May she will complete a gynecology surgical rotation at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. She graduates

in August and takes her certification exam in September. She writes, "Things are going well in Arizona, but I really miss my Women's Studies family! Nothing gets my heart beating faster than an intelligent conversation with other fellow feminists! Best of luck to all of you with all of your dreams and endeavors..."

Jamie Stock, a 2003 Women's Studies graduate, has recently moved to San Francisco. In the recently published *Word: On Being a [Woman] Writer*, editor Jocelyn Burrell writes, "I also gratefully acknowledge Jamie Stock, whose creative work and superb research during this project's early stages is evident in all that is good in the finished volume." Jamie worked on this book while doing a Women's Studies internship at the Feminist Press in New York City.

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## Stewart-Nuñez Publishes Poetry Chapbook

Finishing Line Press has recently published *The Love of Unreal Things*, a book of poetry by Women's Studies student Christine Stewart-Nuñez.

The poems are based on the life of Saint Catherine of Siena, a fourteenth century Italian visionary known for her wisdom, devotion, and rhetorical excellence. Christine approaches Catherine of Siena's life with a "double vision" of the 14th and 21st centuries and weaves narrative poems whose speakers are friends or acquaintances of the saint with narratives/meditations in Catherine's voice, based on the language of her letters.

Christine is a doctoral candidate in the English Department. She has published her poetry in many national literary journals and magazines, including *Calyx*, *Passages North*, *The Texas Review*, and *Arts & Letters*. In 2003 she was awarded an Academy of

*The Love of Unreal Things*



Christine Stewart-Nuñez

American Poets Prize, and in 2004 her poetry was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

*The Love of Unreal Things* is a part of the critically-acclaimed Chapbook Series from Finishing Line Press and is available as a soft-cover chapbook for \$14. The cover art is by Terrance Stewart, Jr., Christine's brother.

### What Others Are Saying...

"Poetry flies beyond the facts of history to touch the mystery within. The poems of Christine Stewart-Nuñez in this small volume clearly have been born of the meeting of her own spirit with the story of Catherine of Siena. Catherine, I think, would be pleased."

— Suzanne Noffke, OP, translator of Catherine of Siena's works

"Christine Stewart-Nuñez's poems about Catherine of Siena are stunning, brave, and original, taking on one of religion and history's most loved yet, to my mind, least understood figures, bringing her to life on the page, giving her voice and making

her human. The poems are full of the sensual delights of body as well as the weight of the soul, each poem deftly wrought to reveal a world both real and transcendent. *The Love of Unreal Things* is a work that will change your life."

— Jesse Lee Kercheval, author of *Dog Angel*

For more information on the book or for ordering information, please visit:

<http://www.finishinglinepress.com>

or Christine's personal website:

<http://home.neb.rr.com/poetscholar/home.htm>.

### From the Director...cont'd.

is focused on Sexuality Studies. Professor John Younger of the University of Kansas facilitated a discussion on LGBTQ/ Sexuality Studies for our September colloquium, Professor David Johnson of the University of South Florida presented his research on the "Lavender Scare" of the 1950s in October, and Professor Jennifer McKittrick of UNL presented her work on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in November. The new courses, the minor, the Colloquium Series, and other Women's Studies events are generating excitement among students and faculty.

Women's Studies is now housed in bright spacious offices on the third floor of Seaton Hall. Our proximity to Ethnic Studies is fostering even more collaboration between our two programs. Glenda Moore, program secretary; Rose Holz, Associate Director; and Maureen Gallagher, graduate assistant, are the best staff anyone could work with. I invite you to visit us in person, visit our website, attend our events, or call or email us. We will be glad to hear from you and welcome your participation in or suggestions for the program.

--Barbara DiBernard--

## *End of Semester Celebration*

Please join us on Wednesday,  
December 7, as we celebrate the end of  
another wonderful semester.

We will honor our new faculty:  
Kalenda Eaton  
Melissa Homestead  
Susan Wortmann

and our graduating minor:  
Sallie Alswager.

We will celebrate from 11:30 a.m. to 1  
p.m. in 316 Seaton Hall.

# Women's Studies

## Women's Studies Co-Sponsored Events

In addition to our popular Colloquium Series, Women's Studies co-sponsors many events throughout the year on various and diverse topics.

On Monday, October 10, Pamela Grundy gave a presentation entitled "Shattering the Glass: The Women Who Built Women's Basketball." The presentation was based on Grundy's book, *Shattering the Glass: The Remarkable History of Women's Basketball*. The book, written with Susan Shackelford, is an in-depth history of women's basketball in the United States, from its invention in the late nineteenth century to its present state. Although challenges remain, Grundy and Shackelford see the history of women's basketball as a triumph over adversity in which the best years lie ahead.

The event, held at Memorial Stadium, attracted a large crowd, including members of the UNL Women's Basketball Team.

The event was also sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Program of the Athletic Department, the History Department, and Doane College.

On Tuesday, November 15, Werner Fornos presented "Human Rights, Women's Empowerment, and Global Population." Fornos, president of the Population Institute, is an expert in the field of population stabilization. He devotes his time to both convincing leaders of developing countries to balance their populations with their resources and to encouraging leaders of industrialized countries to help poorer countries achieve their demographic objectives.

The event's primary sponsor was the Human Rights and Human Diversity Initiative. Additional co-sponsors included the Women's Studies Program, the Office of International Affairs, Amnesty International and Pi Sigma Alpha.

## WSA: Women's Studies Association

WSA, the student group for Women's Studies students, has had a busy and active semester. The group meets every other week at the Coffee House and recently held a potluck at the home of WSA president Rachel Groothuis in order to plan their major fall event, a bake sale on November 30.

The group is already planning for next semester, when they will sponsor Shakespeare's Sister, sell t-shirts, and participate in the No Limits conference. WSA will further help in planning the Women's Week banquet and will support the Queer Student Alliance (QSA) on several events, including a planned March for Marriage on Valentine's Day.

The Women's Studies  
Newsletter can be viewed on our  
website:

<http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/about/about.html>



# Women's Studies

## Call for Proposals: No Limits

No Limits features student presentations of research and/or creative activity. Proposals are welcome from undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, on any topic from any discipline related to: women's lives, history, cultures, feminisms, and women's studies. Academic papers, creative writing, music performances, films, and visual arts are all welcome. Presentations are generally between 15 and 20 minutes in length; additional time may be allotted if requested in advance.

Proposals should include an abstract of 250-500 that describes the paper, panel, workshop or creative work, as well as any special requests (for equipment or additional time). The deadline is **Wednesday, January 25, 2006**.

Submit proposals to: [kfalconeralhindi@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:kfalconeralhindi@mail.unomaha.edu).

The Women's Studies Newsletter  
was designed and edited by  
*Maureen O. Gallagher*  
graduate assistant  
[mogallag@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:mogallag@unlnotes.unl.edu)

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

## *No Limits*

**March 3 and 4, 2006**

**"Riding the Waves: Feminism Across  
Generations, Difference and  
Community"**

**This year's No Limits Conference will be held  
at the Milo Bail Student Center at UNO.**

**For more information contact:**

**Karen Falconer Al-Hindi**

**(402) 554-3834**

**[kfalconeralhindi@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:kfalconeralhindi@mail.unomaha.edu)**

**or visit: [http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/events/  
noLimits.htm](http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/events/noLimits.htm)**

## *No Limits*