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University Relations, "Morris Feminists to Host First Conference" (2013). *Campus News Archive*. 309.
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Morris Feminists to Host First Conference

Summary: This March the student organization Morris Feminists will host its first conference.

(March 1, 2013)-This March the student organization Morris Feminists will host its first conference, “The F-Word Conference: What Role Do You Play in Redefining Gender and Culture.” The conference will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 8, and continue throughout the day on Saturday, March 9. The intent of the conference is to allow the larger campus community to engage in open discourse and education on the definition of feminism.

“A ‘feminist’ is a very broad term with many different meanings,” says Rachael Blais ’15, St. Paul. “We hope that this conference will have open discussion about what feminism is. Feminists do not have to identify as women—there are many male feminists! We hope to attract people that maybe do not identify as feminists in order to encourage an all-encompassing view of feminism.”

To begin the conference, there will be screening of the film *Girl Rising* on Friday, March 8, at 6 p.m. in the Science Auditorium (Science and Math 2950). *Girl Rising* traces the stories of nine girls from nine different countries and the ways in which education changes their lives.

Four sections of interactive workshops on Saturday, March 9, will be presented by Morris students and faculty as well as community members. Topics will include sexism in hip-hop, feminist activism and spoken word poetry, gender and religion, body image and the media, education about homosexuality in schools, and reproductive legislation. These workshops are free of charge and open to all who attend.

The Morris Feminists hope that the event will achieve the goal of promoting networking between students, faculty, and community members while bringing together people who would not organically meet to discuss the topic of gender.

“We want self-proclaimed feminists as well as people who do not identify as feminists and people who just don’t know about feminism. We want everyone to attend.”

For more information on the F-Word Conference, please contact ummfem@morris.umn.edu. Additional information, including registration and a detailed workshop schedule, is available [online](#). Early registration ends Monday, March 4.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.