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Poetry event kicks off Women's Week

Summary: A variety of events are planned to celebrate women and to showcase their accomplishments during Women's Week at UMM February 5-10. The theme for this year's Women's Week is "Women United."

(January 29, 2007)-A variety of events are planned to celebrate women and to showcase their accomplishments during Women's Week at UMM February 5-10. The theme for this year's Women's Week, organized by the UMM Women's Resource Center, is "Women United."

An Editor's Round Table and Brown Bag Lunch will kick off Women's Week at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5, in the Alumni Room of the Student Center. Join in a Round Table discussion at noon, also in the Alumni Room. Editors of the new anthology, *To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-territorial Days to the Present*, will be on hand. Coffee and dessert will be available.

A Poetry Blowout at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, in Edson Auditorium will follow on Monday. The event will celebrate the new anthology *To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-territorial Days to the Present*. Poets Gail Rixen, a UMM alumna '77, Vicki Graham, associate professor of English, Athena Kildegaard, instructor in English, along with poets Joyce Sutphen, Thom Tammaro and Connie Wanek will read their poems that are published in the anthology. A reception with live music will follow in Turtle Mountain Café. Co-sponsors of the Poetry Blowout are the Commission on Women, Humanities Division, English discipline, Briggs Library Associates, Friends of the Morris Public Library, Morris Area Arts Boosters, the Campus Activities Council Convocations Committee and the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance. Following the readings, a reception with live music and dessert will be held in Turtle Mountain Café. Poets will be on hand to sign their books as well as the anthology.

Other events during Women's Week include:

Red Shirt Day, February 6. Those who have been or know someone who has been sexually assaulted are asked to wear red shirts. The goal of this day is to bring attention to how many people have been affected by sexual assault or know someone who has. A speakout will also be held with the location yet to be determined. Watch for details.

The Wednesday, Feb. 7, Soup and Substance will be hosted by UMM junior Lydia Carlson. Soup and Substance is an event at which people come together to discuss issues. The Women's Week topic for discussion is Feminism, selected from ideas that UMM students suggested earlier this year. Soup and Substance will be held in the Student Center Oyat Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event offers a great opportunity to raise questions and issues about feminism and related issues or to voice one's own opinion. This event is free and all are encouraged to stop by.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, a discussion on women in math and sciences will begin at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Alumni Room. Refreshments will be provided.

Finally, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9-10. The Vagina Monologues will be presented in Edson Auditorium. The theme for this year's monologues is "Reclaiming Peace: Women in Conflict Zones." This somewhat humorous, more often poignant, presentation is the brainchild of nationally renowned playwright Eve Ensler. The Monologues plays on many college campuses throughout Minnesota and the U.S. during the month of February to raise awareness of women's issues. UMM women – students, staff and faculty – along with non-campus community members will perform monologues. This event is free and open to the public. A "talk back," sponsored by the Campus Activities Council, and refreshments will follow the performance.

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