March is Women’s History Month. Women’s History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as “Women’s History Week.” Over the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions marking a week in March as "Women’s History Week."

In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the entire month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.” Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.”

**Information taken from:

womenshistorymonth.gov

www.internationalwomensday.com
International Women’s Day

The first International Women’s Day was held in 1911. Each year International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8. Events occur all over the world to celebrate the various achievements of women throughout history. Many organizations create their own theme based on their own efforts and interests to celebrate International Women’s Day.

The United Nations will be using the theme “Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It!” The United Nations invites you to highlight the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago that sets the agenda for realizing women’s rights.

InternationalWomensDay.com (a non-profit global hub for sharing International Women’s Day information, events, news and resources) will be using the theme “Make It Happen.”

Here at SIUE we will be celebrating International Women’s Day on March 6th. The Women’s Studies Program is asking that all of the women of the SIUE community (faculty, staff and students) submit a photo that represents a day in the life of women at SIUE. It can be anything (objects, people or yourself). What does it mean to be a woman at SIUE today? What sort of roles are you juggling? What is your mood? What issues are on your mind?

Submit your photo by March 6th, via Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #SIUEwomensday. Make sure you tag the Women’s Studies Program (@wmstsiue). You can also email your photo to spray@siue.edu.

Dean Wendy Shaw will put the photos together into a collage that will be displayed in Peck Hall, the other two campuses and featured online at siuewmst.wordpress.com.

**Information taken from:
http://www.internationalwomensday.com/default.asp
Thursday, February 19, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“Artemisia Gentileschi: Portrait of a Baroque Artist as an Early Feminist”
Prof. Katie Poole-Jones, Art History
Founders Hall 0300

Monday, February 23, 11-11:50 p.m.
“New Perspectives on Campus Sexual Assault”
A Panel Discussion: Chad Martinez, Director, SIUE Office of EOA and Title IX Coordination; Ashley Whiteside, Counseling Services, and Prof. Dayna Henry, Health Education
MUC, Mississippi-Illinois

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
“Gender, MisRecognition, and Asexuality: A Dialogue”
Prof. Jennifer Logue, Educational Leadership, and Puck Von Nida
Founders Hall 0308

Wednesday, February 25, 12-1:15 p.m.
Prof. Kiana Cox, Sociology
MUC, Maple-Dogwood

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30-8 p.m.
“ Mythology, Meaning and Misogyny: A New Conversation on Female Sexuality”
Therese Shechter, Documentary filmmaker, writer
MUC, Hickory-Hackberry

March, Ongoing
“What’s Wrong With This Picture? Photography of Gender Inequity in Everyday Life”
Lovejoy Library, 1st Floor

Friday, March 6
“International Women’s Day Project: A Day in the Life of Women at SIUE”
See SIUE Women’s Studies webpage to participate

Tuesday, March 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
“Women of Color in the Academy and Epistemic Doubt”
Prof. Saba Fatima, Philosophy
Founders Hall 0308

Tuesday, March 24, 11-12:15 p.m.
“Domestic Violence from a Prosecutor’s Point of View”
Tom Gibbons, Madison County State Attorney
Peck Hall 2403

Tuesday, March 24, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“Antigone, Jocasta & the Figure of the Empty Nest”
Prof. Sue Cataldi, Philosophy
Peck 0307

Thursday, March 26, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“The Full Picture: Interviews with Emergency Room Volunteers as Rape Victim Advocates.”
Prof. LaDonna Long
Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies
Founders Hall 0300

Monday, April 6, 12-1:15 p.m.
Panel discussion, “Sexual Assault in the Military: A 2015 Perspective”
Co-Sponsored by the SIUE ROTC Program & the Peace Studies Program
MUC, Hickory-Hackberry

Tuesday, April 7, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“Women, Sport, and the Media”
Prof. Lindsay Ross-Stewart, Kinesiology and Health Education
Founders 0300

Tuesday, April 14, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“Domestic Violence”
Michelle Krusiec, Actor and Advocate
MUC, Maple-Dogwood

Thursday, April 16, 12:30-1:45 p.m.
“Sustainability as a Feminist Issue”
Prof. Connie Frey-Spurlock, Sociology
Co-sponsored by SIUE Student Organization for Sustainability and the Office of Sustainability
Founders Hall 0300

April 13-24, Oasis Supply Drive
Peck Hall, multiple locations

Coffee with Cool Women

Faculty Book Club
Madwoman in the Academy
Co-Sponsored by SIUE Faculty Development
February 18, March 18, April 8, 2 p.m.
siue.edu/Innovation/Teaching
The Hundred-Foot Journey tells the story of a feud between two adjacent restaurants owners whose opposing cultural norms not only learn to coexist, but eventually triumphantly reconcile. The underlying theme of diversity as seen in the film is a mild venture into the culture of the kitchen and the clashes that occur between a Michelin-starred French restaurant and an Indian one that has recently established itself across the street, literally a hundred feet away. The film is based upon a popular novel about food by Richard C. Morais and portrays the French culinary culture as arrogant and evolved while the Indian is brash and shocking. The director of the film, Lasse Hallstrom, attempts to portray the clashes that occur in the overlap of culinary and ethnic cultures through the main characters, Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren), Papa Kadam (Om Puri) and Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal).

Madame Mallory and Papa Kadam are the proprietors of said restaurants. Their characters are spirited and portrayed effortlessly in the film. The film focuses on the son of Papa Kadam, Hassan and his journey. In the early part of the film, the Kadam family flees from India after political strife causes their restaurant to burn down and the death of their matriarch and culinary teacher, Mama Kadam (Juhi Chawla). Papa Kadam and his family travel through Europe looking for a place to settle and re-open their family restaurant. They finally settle in the French countryside opposite to Madame Mallory’s restaurant and open Maison Mumbai. Hassan’s growth as a character is depicted as he rises from the Indian “cook,” (as he describes himself to an immigration officer upon entering the European Union) of Maison Mumbai to a celebrated French chef.

Along his journey, Hassan and his family face many adversities. Issues of diversity, mainly acceptance, assimilation, prejudices and ethnic pride are the common underlying themes that drive the film. When the family first arrives in this small countryside French town, they face some xenophobia that is expected to be seen with the introduction of any new culture in a town lacking diversity. Their restaurant is vandalized by some people who are intolerant of other races. They have to comply with complaints from neighbors about their music, their decoration and the smells that come from their restaurant. It takes a bit of heroic effort on the part of Papa Kadam to bring French diners into his Indian restaurant. Helen Mirren does a wonderful job of portraying her character as prideful and arrogant eventually realizing the follies of her ways and finally accepting that an Indian can be as talented as a French chef, if not more.

The movie comes with the stamp of approval from titanic tastemakers Oprah Winfrey and Steven Spielberg, who both serve as producers. In an interview, Winfrey was quoted, "Food blends cultures and allows us to have just a little peek into someone else’s life... It is about a hundred foot divide between cultures." Winfrey chose the book on which the film is based as a "favorite summer read" in 2010. She said, "It’s about human beings coming to understand other human beings and more importantly, after you get to experience or step into somebody else’s shoes or see them for a real human being, how you understand that you’re really more alike than you are different."

If this had been a real French town that lacked diversity in its population, perhaps a diversity council would have better served the needs of the town. The various issues of diversity could have been better handled by a diversity council rather than the poor mayor who was dragged into every little squabble the townspeople, namely Madam Mallory, had with the Kadam’s and their restaurant. At one point, the mayor had to warn Madame Mallory not to be like some of the small-minded residents who were intolerable of other races, lest she become one of them. The acceptance of a foreign culture rides on the hopes of a single ethnically diverse resident whose rise to fame puts the townspeople at ease, despite their prejudices and maleficence. The film is handsomely crafted, well-acted and sufficiently enjoyable. It is about opening up your senses and sampling spicy, exotic tastes, and is no spicier than chicken tikka masala for the soul.

The Hundred-Foot Journey was released by Touchstone Home Entertainment on Blu-ray Disc and DVD on December 2, 2014. It is an American comedy drama, rated PG-13, runs 122 minutes.
The SIUE Multicultural Center will be sponsoring a Phenomenal Women’s Luncheon

Phenomenal Women
(by invitation only for this year)

Monday
March 23
11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Maple Dogwood Room

Safe Zone will be hosting a Safe Chat movie!

March 17th
4:00-6:30pm

Evergreen Hall Multifunction Room

Movie: Kinky Boots – Based on a true story, the movie tells of a struggling British shoe factory’s young, strait-laced owner, Charlie, who forms an unlikely partnership with Lola, a drag queen, to save the business. Followed by a discussion.

**Refreshments will be provided!

The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion has the Spring Film Series happening!

March 5, 11:00am-1:30pm
Freedom on my Mind
Illinois Room

April 16, 11:30am-12:30pm
Harassment: Sex, Religion & Beyond
Rendleman Hall 3102

May 14, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Memory of Forgotten War
Rendleman Hall 3102

June 9, 12:00pm-1:00pm
The Language You Cry In
Rendleman Hall 3102

To contribute to this newsletter send your articles to:
Dr. Venessa A. Brown, Associate Chancellor
Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
Room 3116, Rendleman Hall
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1020
Email: vbrown@siue.edu