THEME: “Empowering Women: Global Perspectives and Promising Solutions”

This seminar series on “empowering women” explores one of the fundamental challenges of our times: how to prevent violence against women, improve maternal health and reproductive rights, strengthen women’s economic empowerment, and ensure women’s rights and guarantee gender equality. What are the main obstacles to and lessons for realizing promising solutions that empower women and girls around the world today? This series will explore how education, health care, economic opportunities and leadership development can foster gender justice and enable women to be full, active and productive members of society. The series will complement campus discussions of the 2010-2011 First Year Book “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn by drawing on the perspectives of nonprofit and civil society leaders through guest presentations and documentary films of successful initiatives to empower women at the local, national, and global levels.

Seminar Topics Include:

- The U.N. Convention on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
• The Greenbelt Movement in Kenya and the inspiring leadership of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai;
• The multifaceted roles of the women’s movement in India in addressing peace, political representation, development, livelihood security, religious fundamentalism and exclusion, female infanticide, human trafficking and social conflict.
• Women’s protests against U.S. military bases in the Philippines and around the world.

VENUE & TIME: Beyond the Classroom Seminar Room, 1102 South Campus Commons, Building 1. Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm, Fall Semester 2010.

ACADEMIC CREDIT OPTION: Students may register for “UNIV 399E: Experiential Learning: Empowering Women: Global Perspectives and Promising Solutions” as part of a 1-credit option (REG/P-F/AUD basis) for this seminar series.

INFORMATION: Dr. James V. Riker, Director, Beyond the Classroom Living and Learning Program, University of Maryland, 1104 South Campus Commons Phone: 301-314-6622; Fax: 301-314-6623; E-mail: jriker@umd.edu
Web: www.BeyondTheClassroom.umd.edu

This seminar series is co-sponsored by Beyond the Classroom; the First Year Book Program; and the Office of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Maryland.