Friday, April 4, 2008: RESEARCH SESSIONS AND RJ FELLOWS SYMPOSIUM

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  BREAKFAST      Mendham Gallery

9:00 – 9:50 a.m.    RESEARCH SESSION I

PANEL ONE: Children’s TV Curriculum: Media as Educators      Moyer 106

Stephanie Scrofani, Muhlenberg College, “A Textual Analysis of Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

Laurie Kamens, Muhlenberg College, “Gender Roles in Children’s Educational Programs.”

Ashley Farkas, Muhlenberg College, “Masculinity in Disney Films of the 1990s.”

Paul Thaler, Muhlenberg College, “Gender-Roles in The Simpsons.”

Moderator: Dr. Susan Kahlenberg, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication

PANEL TWO: Mis-Representations in Film and Television: How Far Have We Come?   Moyer 301

Soham Desai and Carlo Morrongiello, Muhlenberg College, “How Real is Reality TV: Representation of African-Americans.”

Sara Francella, Muhlenberg College, “White Man’s Indian or Symbolic Annihilation.”

Jamie Scneider, Muhlenberg College, “Equality for all Amigos.”

Dana Bielecki, Muhlenberg College, “Racism in Disney Films.”

Moderator: Dr. Kate Ranieri, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.  RESEARCH SESSION II

PANEL THREE:  Multiple Approaches to Understanding Difference  Moyer 101

Ashley Viviani, Muhlenberg College, “An Examination of the Sexual Exploitation of African Slave Women and the Differing Experiences of Mulatto Slaves in the Antebellum South.”


Alana Torres, Muhlenberg College, “When Minds Think Alike.”

Moderator: Dr. Sue Clemens-Bruder, Muhlenberg College, Department of History

PANEL FOUR:  Investigations of Human Rights, Diversity and Poverty in the Millenium  Moyer 314

David Weiss, Lindsey Grom and Rachel Leavitt, Muhlenberg College, “Diversity Education at Muhlenberg College.”

Sean McKeever, Lehigh University, “Disempowering Development: In Search of a New Paradigm.”


Moderator: Dr. David Shulman, Lafayette College, Department of Sociology/Anthropology

11:00 – 11:50 a.m.  RESEARCH SESSION III

PANEL FIVE:  Public Policy and Social Equity: Bumps on the Road to Social Progress  Moyer 301

Leslie Schaffer, Muhlenberg College, “Title IX: Women in Sport.”

Lauren Finder, Lafayette College, “The Epidemiology of the Obesity Epidemic: A Socio-Economic Perspective.”

Alysse Henkel, Lafayette College, “The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Hope VI Grants.”

Moderator: Dr. Judy Ridner, Muhlenberg College, Department of History

PANEL SIX:  On the Backs of Women: Body Image in the Media  Moyer 106

Elizabeth Harris and Tracy Anderson, Muhlenberg College, “Beauty in the Eye of the Advertiser.”

Laura Reese, Muhlenberg College, “A Profile of the Pro-Ana Movement.”

Nicole Falso, Muhlenberg College, “Contradictory Messages of Female Body Image in Women's Magazines.”

Moderator: Dr. Jeff Pooley, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.  BUFFET LUNCH  Mendham Gallery
12:30 – 1:20 p.m.  RESEARCH SESSION IV

PANEL SEVEN:  Implications of Media in the 21st Century

Monique Ellison, Muhlenberg College, “Race Distortion in the News.”


Julie Plotkin, Muhlenberg College, “What’s Black Got to do with Coaching in the NBA?”

Nikki Rhoads, Muhlenberg College, “The Emergence of New Media in Early Twenty-First Century: A Critical Juncture in the Media’s Role as a Watchdog Institution.”

Moderator:  Dr. Sue Curry Jansen, Muhlenberg College, Department of Media and Communication

PANEL EIGHT:  Education Beyond the Red Doors


Liza Witmer, Bari Lasky, and Jennifer Rosenberg, Muhlenberg College, “Alternative Spring Break.”

Moderator:  Ms. Beth Halpern, Muhlenberg College, Director of Community Service and Civic Engagement.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  CHANGE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH RJ FELLOWS

Muhlenberg College, “Individualizing the Liberal Arts Education.”
A proposal for a more interdisciplinary approach to the general academic requirements.

Muhlenberg College, ”Converting the Campus: The Push for a Greener Community.”
A plan to convert campus safety vehicles to hybrid vehicles to save money and reduce pollution.

Muhlenberg College, "What's in Your Water?"
A look at new research on the chemicals and drugs found in Pennsylvania drinking water, changes in Muhlenberg's water testing, and a proposal for new prevention standards for a cleaner future.

Muhlenberg College, "How to Score Better on Standardized Tests."
A plan for a new campus program to help students achieve better test scores.

Moderator:  Rev. Peter Bredlau, Muhlenberg College.

2:30 – 3:20 p.m.  RJ FELLOWS DIGITAL MEDIA EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

Using digital media, graduating RJ Fellows reflect on the experiences, knowledge, people and events that inform their perspectives on change and shape their identity as agents of meaningful change. Students will be on hand to discuss their projects.

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SRSJ Co-Directors:
Drs. Susan Kahlenberg and Kate Ranieri

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