Silent Spring at 50: The Prophetic Vision of Rachel Carson
Sustainability Week 2012, October 1-8

We are excited to inform the Xavier community of the events planned for Sustainability Day and Week 2012. Our hope is that professors, staff and others might be able to incorporate one or more of these activities into their work with students in the fall.

The week will feature Sandra Steingraber and Kaulani Lee honoring and remembering Rachel Carson. Rachel Carson was a woman of passion, gentle spirit, and rigorous intellect whose painstaking research and concern for public safety raised consciousness about the dangers of pesticides. She is best known for her book, Silent Spring, published in 1962. Biologist Sandra Steingraber’s work and books (Living Downstream and Raising Elijah) on the links between environmental toxins and cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities, and other ailments continues this prophetic tradition, empowering us to take greater responsibility for our personal, communal, and environmental health. Actress Kaulani Lee’s one-woman play based on the life and works of Rachel Carson, A Sense of Wonder, brings Carson’s prophetic vision to life.

The following events will be open to the Xavier and wider community:

- Wednesday, September 26, Film: Living Downstream, location TBA, 7 pm
- Wednesday, October 3, Women’s Center Book Club (Silent Spring), 12:30-2 pm
- Thursday, October 4, A Sense of Wonder play, Gallagher Student Center Theater, 7 pm
- Sunday, October 7, Sandra Steingraber lecture, Cintas Banquet Center, 7 pm
- Sunday, October 7, Urban bike ride with UC and the Zoo, am
- Monday, October 8, Sandra Steingraber at Sustainability Day, location TBA, 1:30-3 pm

In addition, there will be a one-day workshop (May 7, 10-2) available to any staff or faculty interested in learning more about Carson and Steingraber's work. The workshop will honor Carson's legacy beginning with exploration of wonder and love for the ecosystems with which our destiny is intertwined, followed by an exploration of ways in which our actions and choices imperil both the health of our ecosystems and our own well-being here in Cincinnati. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Finally, look for more information about tours to sites related to the week’s theme, including the former Fernald production site.

Co-sponsored by: Sustainability Committee, Brueggeman Center for Dialogue, Center for Faith and Justice, Women’s Center, Biology Department, Theology Department, English Department, and Xavier Chapter of the Youth Empowerment Network.