A Festival of Disorder
In Memory of Michael O. Albertson
April 24 & 25, 2009

“I’m here to ask new questions.”
—Mike Albertson

Louise W. and Edmund J. Kahn Liberal Arts Institute
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About the Festival

Toward the end of the twentieth century, scientists discovered that “disorder” isn’t random, it’s a maze of subtle patterns, subtleties that can fuel social, artistic, and scientific change. This two-day Festival is a disorderly romp through disorders of many kinds, concocted and led by the Student and Faculty Fellows of the Kahn Institute’s year-long research project “A Festival of Disorder.” We dedicate it to the memory of Professor Michael Albertson (1946 – 2009), a Faculty Fellow in this project. His intriguing questions spurred us on. Join us and enjoy!

Friday, April 24

11:00 am: Campus Center Steps
Kickoff Dance Party/Parade
Disorder begins with breakdowns of order that ripple out to who knows where. Don’t just stand there, kick off your shoes, forget your schedule (for a moment, anyway), and join the dance parade!

11:30 am: Tyler Lawn
Human Graph: Symmetry and Disorder
A human maypole? A pagan dance? Or a disorderly network of far-flung research? Student and Faculty Fellows of the Kahn Institute project A Festival of Disorder will create a human graph linking their research projects before your very eyes. This event is free and open to the public.

Noon-1:00 pm: Gamut, Mendenhall CPA
Feeding the Bodies of Pedagogical Anarchy
Feeling hungry? Feeling scattered and disorganized? Need a break? Take care of all three problems at this food festival of disorder. You can benefit as we turn our research into delicious (if disorderly) snacks. The menu will include Oreors d’oeuvres, cookienapes, popcorn potpourri, tricky finger sandwiches, curried knishes with peach salsa, binary pie, and entropy punch.

1:00-4:00 pm: Seelye Hall 106
Film Festival of Disorder
Disorder goes to the movies! This mini-film festival will include clips of the Beatles performing a scene from A Midsummer’s Night Dream, excerpts from Emanuele Crialese’s The Golden Door (Nuovomondo) (2006), Andrea Bowers' Vows (2008), Sidney Goldsmith’s The Man Who Loved Machines (1983), and more. They can be watched in any order and will be shown in a continuous loop, so drop in any time and stay as long as you like.

Saturday, April 25

11:00 am-1:00 pm: Atrium, Smith Art Museum
The Paper Chase: A Workshop on Papermaking
Shred, stir, and slather! Join Fellows of the Kahn Institute’s project A Festival of Disorder to make new sheets of paper from old shreds and snippets. Bring your own paper/documents for shredding and we’ll teach you how to make new paper out of all that old clutter.

2:00-5:00 pm: Davis Ballroom
Women’s Bodies at the Border: A Poetry & Movement Workshop
This participatory workshop will explore questions of borders and surveillance on our bodies, drawing from experiences of women along the Mexico-U.S. border. Activities will include movement improvisation, creative writing and choreography. Director/choreographer Dora Arreola and writer/performer Andrea Assaf collaborate together to create this interactive workshop. The workshop is free and open to the public. It will begin promptly and all participants should commit to joining the entire three-hour workshop. Limited to 20 participants.

2:00-4:00 pm: Neilson Browsing Room
To Shelve a Book: Borgesian Book Dis/Organizing Festival
Come organize some books according to your own system. Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges describes a Chinese encyclopedia in which animals are divided into unique categories: ‘embalmed ones,” “fabulous ones,” “stray dogs”” “those that are trained,” etc. Those categories have led organizers to new creative heights. If you were organizing a collection of books, what would your categories be? Come experiment and let your imagination run free by sorting our books by systems of your own making.