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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Borderline Personality Disorder' To Be Explored in Feb. 7 Talk at Cal Poly

Cal Poly English Professor Linda Halisky will discuss borderline personality disorder at the next presentation in Cal Poly Women's Studies Faculty Lecture series Feb. 7.

Halisky's talk, "Of and For the Borderlands: The Myths of Inanna and Borderline Personality Disorder," will be 11 a.m. to noon in Room 222 in the Erhart Agriculture Building on campus. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The onset of borderline personality disorder (BPD) principally appears in adolescent or young adult females, is a highly distressing and controversial disorder and one that has been historically resistant to treatment, according to Halisky.

According to the BPD Central Web site, people with BPD generally feel worthless, empty, moody, needy, depressed, and have difficulty managing their emotions. They have trouble with boundaries -- both their own and respecting others'. They are looking for that all-loving "other" who will provide the unconditional love they cannot give themselves.

The site also notes those with the disorder often act inconsistently and impulsively in ways they later regret, see others as either all good or all bad, and base their beliefs on feelings instead of facts. "Current theory in the psychiatric profession holds that perceptions of reality that rely heavily -- sometimes solely -- on either/or categories of experience or belief both contribute to BPD and hinder its management," Halisky said.

In her talk, Halisky will address new approaches to behavioral conditioning, "which aim to loosen the hold dualistic patterns of thinking tend to have on borderline patients."

"I will focus particularly in the applicability of the Sumerian mythology of the goddess Inanna (ca. 3500 B.C.) to emerging treatment strategies for women diagnosed as suffering from borderline personality disorder."

For more information, contact the Cal Poly Women's Studies office at 756-1525, e-mail womst@polymail.calpoly.edu or visit its Web page at www.calpoly.edu/~womst.

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