



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

**Third Annual Symposium in Land Use and Ethics
SUNY-ESF's Northern Forest Institute
At Huntington Wildlife Forest
June 6-8, 2014**

Keynote Speaker and Scholar-in-Residence Ellen Miller



Ellen Miller is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at Rowan University where she has taught for twelve years. Her book, *Releasing Philosophy, Thinking Art: A Phenomenological Study of Sylvia Plath's Poetry* (Davies Group Publishers), the first full-length philosophical examination of Sylvia Plath's poetry, claims that art and philosophy need each other and have much to say to one another about questions that overlap each medium. Her publications and scholarly presentations focus on topics in philosophy of art, feminist philosophy, and environmental ethics. In her book chapter, "The Giving Tree and Environmental Philosophy: Listening to Deep Ecology, Feminism, and Trees" (*Philosophy in Children's Literature*, Lexington Books), she claims children's literature can help adults retrieve the more poetic modes of reveling discussed by Heidegger, especially in his later writing. This chapter emphasizes the importance of sustaining childlike aspects of our existence that we can discover in adulthood.

Her current research shows how Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty's views on nature, environment, and technology resonate with work in educational and environmental thinking. In addition, she is exploring how Sylvia Plath's questions about poisons, toxicity and technology can help readers become more attuned to our contemporary environmental crises. In her teaching, she remains committed to applied philosophical approaches and has received a grant in order to facilitate service learning in Ethics courses.