

2009 UM-St. Louis Trailblazers



Environmentalist Kay Drey (second from left) was the guest speaker Thursday at the UMSL Women Trailblazers Ceremony. Six women were honored. They are (holding awards from left) Diane Touliatos, Hazel Erby, Laura X (Laura Rand Orthwein Jr.), Judith Walker de Felix, Charlotte Claeys and Sonya Bahar.

The moment she heard her name announced, [Sonya Bahar](#) leapt onto the stage, bypassing the steps on either side. With that athletic feat, Bahar, assistant professor of biophysics and director of the [Center for Neurodynamics](#) at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, set an enthusiastic tone at the [UMSL Women Trailblazers Ceremony](#) on Thursday. Bahar was one of six awardees honored at the annual event, which recognizes UMSL women who: are the first to occupy positions traditionally held by men; blaze trails within their fields; or make noteworthy contributions to the university and their professions. The other 2009 Trailblazers are Charlotte Claeys, graduate student in the [College of Business Administration](#); [Hazel Erby](#), representative on the [St. Louis County Council](#); [Diane Touliatos](#), professor of music and director of [The Center for the Humanities](#); [Judith Walker de Felix](#), associate provost for academic affairs and dean of [The Graduate School](#); and [Laura X](#) (Laura Rand Orthwein Jr.), pioneering feminist and founder of the [National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape and Women's History Library](#). The theme for the event was "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet." Environmentalist Kay Drey was the guest speaker. She has been a tireless opponent of nuclear power plants, uranium fuel facilities and their related radioactive wastes. She spoke of her environmental heroines and urged the audience to speak out and act out for what they believe. She said, "I hope women continue to maintain their low tolerance for risk."

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