



# Women's Voice

Illinois State University

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## From the Director

Sandra D. Harmon, Acting Director

## Women's Capabilities Conference

Planning has been underway since October for the second annual Women's Capabilities Initiative (WCI) conference which will take place Saturday, April 20, from 8:30-3:45 at the Baby Fold Conference Center. This year's conference, "WOMEN: Unlimited Possibilities, Steps Beyond Survival," will provide low-income and minority women in central Illinois resource information and an opportunity to network with other women of diverse backgrounds. The conference will feature a resource fair, panel discussion, breakout sessions, and keynote speaker. Lunch-time entertainment will be provided by the Mt. Pisgah Praise Dancers.

The WCI, a joint venture between the School of Social Work and Women's Studies, is directed by Dr. Najma Adam, assistant professor of Social Work. The initiative itself has academic, training, and community outreach components that address the situation, needs, and prospects of low-income women in central Illinois, with a focus on the status and well-being of low-income minority women. The capabilities concept comes from the work of economist Amartya Sen and philosopher Martha Nussbaum and is used in used in international development circles to refer to the acquisition of health, education, income, and the ability to participate in civic life. WCI applies the concept to low-income women in central Illinois.

The annual conference is part of the community outreach component of the WCI. This year's conference builds upon the work of last year's conference by addressing areas that were identified then as needing greater attention: health, safety, housing, and education. We have been fortunate to have a number of women from last year as well as women new to the Initiative serve this year in either a planning or advisory capacity. The planning process has involved faculty and staff from Social Work, Women's Studies, Theatre, Curriculum and Instruction, and the College of Arts and Sciences Research Office, graduate and undergraduate students, and representatives from the Baby Fold, McLean

County Chamber of Commerce, Neville House, Girl Scouts Centrillo Council, Heartland Community College, Center for the Prevention of Abuse, Center of Hope, Bloomington Housing Authority, and Urban Services. It has been a rewarding experience for me to get to know and work with these women and to help forge closer ties between the University and these community agencies.

On April 20, the morning panel discussion will feature women who have succeeded in overcoming health issues or obstacles to affordable housing and educational attainment. They will share their stories, point out community resources that were of help and those that were problematic, and make suggestions for ways to improve the quality of life for women in the community. Morning concurrent breakout sessions deal with health and education and afternoon sessions with safety and housing. Speakers from a variety of agencies will share information about available resources and processes. The resource fair will feature information tables from a number of local agencies and programs.

Debbie Thompson, the keynote speaker, is a survivor of domestic abuse who was named Illinois' "Outstanding Victim Advocate" for 2001. She has testified at hearings of the Illinois General Assembly and spoken on behalf of the "Call to Protect" program in Illinois and other states. She works for Freedom House in Princeton, Illinois, a rural domestic violence and sexual assault agency serving north central Illinois, where she coordinates and supervises the prevention program.

The organizers of the conference want to give special thanks to the Baby Fold for allowing us to hold the conference in their new conference facility at 612 Oglesby Avenue in Normal. The conference center is part of the Baby Fold's renovation of the school building which once served the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home. The WCI will be the first group to host a conference in the facility and we thank Karen Major, Director of Family Support Services, Baby Fold, for her assistance in making this venue possible.

The conference is free and open to faculty, staff, students and the public. For more information or to pre-register contact Peggi at 438-8507. ■

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## Women's Studies Staff

Dr. Val Moghadam	Director	Sabbatical
Dr. Sandra Harmon	Interim Director	438-7361
Dr. Sophia McClennen	Interim Assistant Director	438-2947
Ms. Rozel White	Secretary	438-2947
Dr. Ann Haugo	Instructional Asst. Prof.	438-3955
Ms. Katherine Moritz	Graduate Assistant	438-2948
Ms. Meghan Smith	Undergraduate Assistant	428-2947
Ms. Bethany Struebing	Undergraduate Assistant	438-2947

Visit our website at: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/womenstudies>

# WCI CONFERENCE

## WOMEN

### UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES: STEPS BEYOND SURVIVAL

April 20, 2002

Baby Fold Conference Center

**8:30–8:45 A.M. Registration**  
Coffee and Rolls

**8:45–9:15 A.M. Welcome and Introduction**  
Najma M. Adam, WCI Director, Conference Co-Chair,  
School of Social Work  
*Welcome and greetings from:* Alvin Goldfarb,  
Illinois State University Vice President and Provost;  
Karen Major, Director of Family Support Services,  
Baby Fold

**9:15–10:30 A.M. Introduction**  
Sandra D. Harmon, Conference Co-Chair, Acting Director,  
Women's Studies Program

*Panel "Been There. Done That."*  
Moderator: Diane Zosky, Assistant Professor,  
School of Social Work  
Panelists: Carol Mack, Habitat for Humanity home owner  
Melissa Smith, ISU Alumnae  
Denzil Williams and Emily Bell, Witness Project  
Mandy Hernandez, HIV Clinic

**10:30–10:45 A.M. Break and Prize Drawing**  
Sandra D. Harmon, Conference Co-Chair, Acting Director,  
Women's Studies Program

**10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Concurrent Sessions:**

**Health**  
Moderator: Kathleen Collins, Heartland Community  
College

Speakers: Dora Doyle, HIV/AIDS Task Force  
Sharon Tear, University of Illinois, HIHAC  
Becky Powell, Community Cancer Care Center

**Education**  
Moderator: Beatrice Smith, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Speakers: Lori Thull, Illinois Student Assistance  
Commission

**12:00–1:15 P.M. Lunch, Resource Fair, Prize Drawing**  
Comments: Anne Haugo, Assistant Professor,  
School of Theatre, and Women's Studies  
Program

**1:15–2:15 P.M. Keynote Speaker**  
Introduction: Roberta Trites, Associate Dean,  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Keynote Speaker: Debbie Thompson, Freedom House

**2:15–2:30 Break and Prize Drawing**  
Linda Wright, Girl Scouts of Centrillo Council

**2:30–3:45 P.M. Concurrent Sessions**

**Housing**  
Moderator: Mary Campbell, Associate Professor,  
School of Social Work  
Speaker: Pat Hohulin, Community Action

**Safety**  
Moderator: Lucinda Beier, Director, College of Arts  
and Sciences Research Office  
Speaker: Paula Dapkus, Neville House

**WCI Conference Planning Committee:**  
Najma Adam, School of Social Work, WCI Director  
Jerri Andrews, McLean County Chamber of Commerce  
Mary Campbell, School of Social Work  
Paula Dapkus, Neville House  
Sandra Harmon, Women's Studies  
Peggi Hattaway, Social Work Graduate Assistant  
Ann Haugo, School of Theatre and Women's Studies  
Jeanne Howard, School of Social Work  
Rozel White, Women's Studies  
Linda Wright, Girl Scouts of Centrillo Council  
Diane Zosky, School of Social Work

**WCI Advisory Committee:**  
Lucinda Beier, College of Arts and Science Research Office  
Kathleen Bergquist, School of Social Work  
Kathleen Collins, Heartland Community College  
Nina Hamilton, School of Social Work  
Bonita Hopkins, Bloomington Resident  
Kerri McReynolds, ISU student  
Beatrice Smith, Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Cheryl Stampley, School of Social Work  
Margaret Triplet, Center for Prevention of Abuse  
Pat Turner, Center of Hope  
Linda Wall, School of Social Work  
Stacey Wiggins, Bloomington Housing Authority  
Amy Wyatt, ISU student

# WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

## Faculty News

**Sandra Harmon**, Women's Studies and History, gave a Women's History Month talk at the Lincoln Correctional Center in Lincoln, Illinois, on eight women who fought for their own and other women's education. She has been invited to serve as guest curator of the McLean County Historical Museum's Great Depression exhibit, scheduled to open on October 29, 2004, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1929 stock market crash. The exhibit is tentatively titled, *Weathering the Storm: Life in the Great Depression*.

**Sophia McClennen**, Foreign Languages and Women's Studies, received a University Service Initiative Award at Founders Day Convocation, February 14.

**Becca Chase**, English, presented "Empowering Preservice Teachers to Address LGBTQ Issues in Conservative Schools" at the NCTE Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Cynthia Huff**, English, authored "Women's Letters," published in the Encyclopedia of Life Writing: Autobiographical and Biographical Forms, Vol. II.

**Najma Adam**, Social Work, presented at the Women's Studies Brown Bag series on Social Work in February. She had a presentation on "Research Methodology in Minority Communities" and trained on Atlas/Ti at the University of Illinois at Chicago in March. She also spoke on Domestic Violence in Immigrant Communities for a women's conference titled "Women Keep the Sky from Falling: Celebrating the Resiliency of Women in the Delta" in Mississippi in March. ■

## New Minor

Women's Studies welcomes back **Winter Wren**, Art, as a minor in the Women's Studies program.

## Remaining Women's Studies Brown Bags

**April 3, 2002**

Meredith Downes, Management and Quantitative Methods  
Women's Careers in International Perspective

**April 10, 2002**

April Schultz, Illinois Wesleyan University, History  
Rainey Becher, Owner, The Right Way  
Domestic Service

The Brown Bag discussions take place on Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00 PM in Rachel Cooper 234. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, juice, and cookies will be provided. ■

## Student Profiles

Senior **avada douglas** will graduate in May with a degree in Social Work, a Social Work women's studies certificate and minor in Women's Studies. She is currently interning at Neville House, a shelter for battered women. She was the producer and co-director of *The Vagina Monologues* in February and has served as co-president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) this year.

**Christy Leigh Eyre** will graduate in May with a degree in History. She works at Milner Library, serves as vice-president of the Association of South Campus, and was a delegate to the Great Lakes Association of College and University Residence Halls meeting in Chicago last semester. In November, she received a Tasher Award from the History Department.

Junior **Nicole Berg**, a Mass Communication major, serves on the Women's Studies Programming Committee. She is Hamilton 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor president, a Hamilton assistant, and Association of South Campus Government member, serving as a member of the Constitution Review Committee.

**Amy Wyatt** is a junior Social Work major who plans to complete the Social Work child welfare and women's studies certificates. She serves as a student assistant to the Women's Capabilities Initiative conference planning committee and volunteers at the Baby Fold.

Political science major **Melanie Manego** interned with Bill Brady's successful campaign for the Republican nomination for state Senate.

**Erin Hale** is graduating in August with major in Social Work. She has been a member of Guerrilla Theatre Troupe for five years, and in 2000 won the Bob Berger award for commitment to diversity and social justice, sponsored by Student Counseling Services. Currently, Erin is employed as a Peer Minister for United Campus Christian Foundation, and volunteers at Heritage Manor Residential Care Center in Bloomington. Erin is looking forward to returning to her hometown of Chicago after graduating, and will complete a one-year residential volunteer program with the Franciscan Brothers of the Sacred Heart Province. ■

**For complete information on our undergraduate and graduate courses, visit our website at:**  
<http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/womenstudies>.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university  
encouraging diversity.



Brown Bag on Nursing



Brown Bag on Early Childhood Education

**Women's Voice**  
**Illinois State University**  
**Women's Studies Program**  
**Rachel Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Campus Box 4260**  
**Normal, IL 61790-4260**

For a complete viewing of Women's Studies newly designed website visit <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/womenstudies>.

Women's Studies Program

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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