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March 2, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH CELEBRATED AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Women's rights advocate Anita Hill will be the keynote speaker for Eastern Illinois University's Women's History and Awareness Month observance in March.

Hill, a University of Oklahoma law professor, earned national and international prominence during the 1991 Supreme Court Justice nomination hearings for Clarence Thomas where she testified that Thomas sexually harassed her.

She will speak at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 22 in the University Union Grand Ballroom. Admission is \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for the general public. Her talk is sponsored by the University Board Lectures Committee.

Hill will discuss race and gender issues of the '90s and give a historical perspective of sexual harassment and the abuse of power.

She is currently working on two books: one is her memoirs and personal reflections of her testimony during the Thomas hearings; and the other is about race and gender issues.

Women's History and Awareness Month officially begins on Friday,

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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH

March 3 with a brief welcome by EIU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Hill, who will talk about women who have played an important role in Eastern's history.

Hill's opening remarks at 5:45 p.m. in the Rathskeller in the University Union will be followed with a concert by Motherlode from 6 to 8 p.m. The group is comprised of Gaye Harrison (fiddle and mandolin), Althea Pendergast (bass) and Wendy Meyer, guitar.

Throughout March, eight women theatre arts majors will visit the public schools as part of Eastern's living history program. They will portray famous women in history, including Joan of Arc, Amelia Earhart, Helen Keller, Annie Sullivan, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Clara Shumann, Nellie Bly and Anne Frank.

On Saturday, March 4, stand-up comedienne Katsy Chappell will perform at 10 p.m. in the University Union's Rathskeller. Chappell is the recipient of an Entertainer of the Year Award by the Bob Hope USO shows, has been a finalist on Star Search and has appeared on A & E's Evening at the Improv and MTV's Half Hour Comedy Hour. Admission is \$1 for students with an I.D. and \$3 for the general public.

On Tuesday, March 7, EIU English faculty members Anne Zahlan, Bonnie Irwin and Susan Bazargan, who have studied or lived in the Middle East, will share their perspectives on Middle Eastern women during a panel discussion titled, "Beyond the Veil," at 5 p.m. in the Kansas Room, University Union.

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Other activities on Tuesday include a discussion of women's health issues by family nurse practitioner Carol Warfield at noon in the Oakland Room, University Union, and "Women in Irish Poetry" readings at 7:30 p.m. at the Dudley House, 895 7th Street.

On Thursday, March 9, three women science chairs at Eastern will team up for a panel discussion on women in science at 7 p.m. in the Effingham Room, University Union. Leading the discussion titled, "No Formula: Paths of Women in Science," will be Ellen Keiter, chemistry chair; Kandy Baumgartner, zoology chair; and Rachelle Bergmann, physics chair.

Highlighting the month's activities will be the annual Women's Studies Council Women of Achievement awards reception at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21 in the Tarble Arts Center.

Former members of the Women's Studies Council and past Women of Achievement and writing award recipients have been invited to attend the awards reception where this year's winners of the Women of Achievement awards will be announced. EIU music faculty Karen Larvick Sanders and Marilyn Coles will perform music by women composers.

Those planning to attend the awards reception should call the Women's Resource Center at 581-5947 to reserve a seat.

Other activities open to the public, most of which are free, include a

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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH

one-woman, historical impressions show by impersonator Biby Appleby of Atwood, who will present a program titled, "The History of American Women: Famous and Infamous," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21 in the Coleman Hall Auditorium. Appleby portrays Mary Todd Lincoln, Calamity Jane, Molly Brown and Ann Hutchinson, among others.

"Dancing at the Lughnasa" will premiere Wednesday, March 22 in the Studio in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. This is a memory play about five unmarried Irish sisters who rise above their lonely lives to dance under the festival's pagan spell (the festival at Lughnasa, that is!) Performances are at 8 p.m. March 22-25, 29, 30 and April 1. Matinees will be at 2 p.m. March 26 and April 2. There is an admission charge.

Counseling Center Director Bud Sanders will give a talk titled, "Depression is Blue," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23 in the Effingham Room, University Union.

On Friday, March 24, Champaign-Urbana's premier lesbian/feminist chorus, "Amasong," will perform a free concert at 8 p.m. in the Coleman Hall Auditorium.

"One Night Only," a staged reading about women's voices performed by Stacy Althoff and directed by theatre arts faculty member Marjorie Duehmig, will premiere Monday, March 27 in the Studio in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Carrie Konell from EIU's physical education department will talk about self-defense for women at 7 p.m. Monday, March 27 in the Effingham Room, University Union.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH

EIU English faculty Olga Abella, Linda Calendrillo and Lauren Smith and EIU students Jennifer Moro and Sue Songer will share their poems with others interested in poetry at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 28 in the Charleston-Mattoon Room, University Union.

A free showing of the movie, "What's Love Got To Do With It," the Tina Turner story, will be at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31 in the Booth Library Lecture Hall.

During March, WEIU TV, Charleston, will celebrate Women's History and Awareness Month with special programming, beginning with "America's Women: In Pursuit of Health," which will be broadcast at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5 on WEIU TV.

Other specials include a weekly series on "Women and Social Action" that will air at 6 p.m. on Saturdays in March. The first program, dealing with rape and self-defense, will be broadcast on Saturday, March 11.

Another weekly series, "Here's to Your Health," will premiere on WEIU TV at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

"Issues of Change: Our Kids, Our Jobs," will air on WEIU TV at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 29. This hour-long special takes a look at the state of day care in America and some of the quality solutions being implemented for the future of all our children.

On Thursday, March 30, WEIU TV will feature a concert by Emmylou Harris and the Nash Ramblers at 8:30 p.m.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY & AWARENESS MONTH

The first special in a six-part series, "Discovering Women," narrated by Michelle Pfeiffer, will air at 2 p.m. Friday, March 31 on WEIU TV. The series profiles women who have chosen professions in physics, genetics, biochemistry and archaeology.

The sponsors for Women's History and Awareness Month activities include Eastern's Women's Studies Council, Counseling Center, University Board, History Club, Coles County Arts Council, Association for Childhood Education International, Theatre Arts, Karamu and WEIU TV.

For more information about the month's activities, call Eastern's Women's Resource Center at 581-5947.

To obtain a WEIU TV program guide, call 581-5956.