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February 26, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU SLATE OF EVENTS SET FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY & AWARENESS MONTH

CHARLESTON -- March is Women's History and Awareness Month and Eastern Illinois University's Women's Advocacy Council has an array of events planned.

"Living the Legacy of Women's Rights" is the theme intertwined with each event to commemorate 150 years of the Women's Rights Movement. Since the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, women have pressed for equal rights and continue to be advocates on women's issues. Events planned for the month are designed to promote awareness of these issues and to give a historical perspective of the progress made toward equality.

Among the events, all open to the public, is a presentation by nine students portraying influential women of the past and present. "Living History" will be presented at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Buzzard Hall auditorium. Period dress and dialect will help convey the messages of historical women of the world.

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WOMEN'S AWARENESS

The Rev. Anne Jones, U.S. Presbyterian Church Women's Resource Director of Effingham, will conduct a discussion group on "Suffragists, Seneca Falls and Spiritualism" at noon Tuesday, March 10, in Room 2504, Buzzard Hall, and again on Tuesday, March 24, in the Marti Luther King Jr. University Union's Greenup Room.

Sgt. Bill Emery of the Illinois State Police will help women learn self-defense techniques at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Charleston-Mattoon Room, also in the Union.

Former model and leading authority on media images of women, Ann J. Simonton, will speak on "Sex, Power and the Media" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Grand Ballroom in the Union. Admission to the even, sponsored by the University Board, is \$3 for the general public and \$1 for students with I.D.

At 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, in the Charleston-Mattoon Room, there will be panel discussion, "Life Challenges: Every Day, Every Way."

Bonnie Irwin of Eastern's English department, will conduct a storytelling/folklore workshop on how to collect and tell women's stories. "We Are the Stories We Tell," begins at 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the Union's Martinsville Room.

Singing messages of unity and understanding about cultural diversity, guitarist Irene Farrera will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Union Rathskeller. Her performance is co-sponsored by the Latino Heritage Committee. Admission is free.

Poet Debra Bruce will read from her book, *What Wind Will Do*, at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Tarble Arts Center. She is an associate professor of English at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

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WOMEN'S AWARENESS

“Unruly Women: Historical Perspectives on Gender, Conflict and Public Life” is the theme of a panel discussion featuring topics explored through a historical analysis of gender.

This will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 23, in the Charleston-Mattoon Room.

At 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the Rathskeller, musician/songwriter Kristin Lems will perform. Lems uses women's issues such as women's rights and working mothers as lyrics in her songs. Admission is free.

For information on any Women's History and Awareness Month event, contact Sue Kaufman, EIU Department of Journalism (581-7143). For a complete listing of all events, call the Women's Resource Center at (217)581-5947.