

Wheaton Makes a Big-Screen Splash

The Hollywood script might have called for Wellesley women, but it was all Wheaton when the cameras rolled last December on the set of *Mona Lisa Smile*, the Julia Roberts film set for release later this year.

Wheaton's 12-member synchronized swimming team, fifth in the nation last season, traveled to New York City to perform a swim scene in the movie. Set in 1953, the Mike Newell film focuses on how Roberts' character, an art history professor at Wellesley College, challenges her students and learns from them as well. Wheaton's team performed a routine to Doris Day's "By the Light of the Silvery Moon." The routine was written by head coach Mary Kay Adams.

Elizabeth Maga '03 and Jamie Sallier '03, team co-captains, were impressed by the amount of work that goes into a film production. "I think the whole team had a great time both preparing for and being in the movie, though I do not think any of us will be running out to Hollywood anytime soon," Maga said. "The day was very long and hard."

"We were working for nearly 12 hours on a two-minute scene, and they were nowhere near done filming when our team left the set,"



On the set of *Mona Lisa Smile* in New York, the team poses in period costumes.

Sallier added. In addition to appearing in the movie, Sallier said that the team also met and had lunch with several of the film's actresses and crew members. "I don't know if you will see our team in the film or not; we may end up on the editing room floor! Either way, I am seeing the film regardless if we make it in!"

Otis Symposium, Events Empower Student Activists

Continuing the theme of "Social Equality and Human Rights" discussed during last semester's Otis Social Justice Forum with educator and author Michael Ignatieff, Wheaton hosted several nationally recognized activists in February. "Social Movements: Past and Present" brought together students and professors with leaders of political and social action groups from across the nation for two days of classroom visits, a teach-in and a symposium.

"It was an opportunity for people who are active in movements for social change to talk about their experience—how they got involved—and to dispel myths," said Shontae Praileau, assistant director of Student Life and organizer of the events. "It's a passing of the torch...a rare opportunity for student activists to learn lessons from past movements directly from the sources."

The activists chosen by Praileau and her organizing committee—Susan Colson '96 and Loretta Baldwin of the President's Office, Associate Provost Gordy Weil and Educational Council chair Indira Henard '03—represent a diverse cross-section of American cultural and social movements. They included:

- California State University–Northridge professor Glenn Omatsu,

noted author and activist in community and labor struggles as well as international solidarity movements;

- Iris Morales, former minister of information for the Young Lords Party, a Puerto Rican political and social action group, and founder/president of Latino Education Network Services;
- Arizona State University professor Michael Yellow Bird, a noted authority on the effects of colonization on indigenous peoples and activist for decolonization, and advisory board member of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee;
- Elaine Brown, the first and only woman to lead the Black Panther Party and an activist with Mothers Advocating Juvenile Justice, which seeks to free incarcerated children; and
- Amber Hollibaugh, founding director of the Lesbian AIDS Project of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City.

"We wanted this event to help members of marginalized groups at Wheaton form coalitions and build allies by recognizing the connections between the oppression of targeted groups," Praileau said. "I want students to empower themselves to create social change."