

## Young Women Continue to Redefine Courage



On Friday, September 26, 2008, an all-day research conference was held at Fanshawe's London campus. "Overcoming Violence in the Lives of Girls and Young Women: Stories of Strength and Resilience" was hosted by the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children. The Centre, a partnership of Fanshawe College, the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, and The University of Western Ontario, is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

In the morning greetings were brought by Dr. Terry Boyd, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Media and Design on behalf of President Howard Rundle; by Michael Goodmurphy, Chair of Human Services; by Louise Pitre of the London Coordinating Committee; and by Bob MacMillan from UWO's Faculty of Education. The conference proceedings were facilitated by the Chair of the Centre's Advisory Board, Professor Joseph Dunlop-Adley (Fanshawe, Contemporary Media).

The conference was an opportunity for professionals and guests to share current research and projects in issues dealing with overcoming violence in the lives of girls and young women. Panels moderated by Dr. Walter DeKeseredy, Professor in the Faculty of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies at University of Ontario Institute of Technology, provided the highlights of the day when young women attending the conference shared their stories of personal and group accomplishments. The elegance of their storytelling and the resilience of their strategies for change were inspiring.



Research on "Trajectories of Violence in The Lives of Girls and Young Women" was presented by Dr. Helene Berman (UWO). Barb MacQuarrie (the Centre's Community Director) and Professor Mary Anne Smith (Fanshawe, Human Services) spoke on "Negative Social Experiences of University and College Students". Rose Aquino, Counsellor & International Student Advisor (UWO) and Vivian Peters, Coordinator, Indigenous Services (UWO), led a discussion of the experiences of international and Aboriginal students in university settings.



The second annual Every Day Hero Award was presented with much applause to Dr. Mohammed Baobaid for his work in building relationships between mainstream violence against women services and the Muslim community.

Over 80 professionals from London and district attended the

conference as well as faculty and students from Fanshawe.

Professor Bev Coulston (Fanshawe, Human Services) arranged for 35 students from the Police Foundations and Law and Security programs to volunteer their time to guide guests around campus. Students in the Food and Beverage Management program prepared and served the luncheon at Saffron's.

Feedback on the conference has been very enthusiastic: "An awesome day with very caring and compassionate participants and facilitators." "The planning was well done, the flow and form - perfect. The meal provided was wonderful." "Thank you for making this day affordable for students to attend." "Those young women continue to redefine courage and heroism!"