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## SAVVI Celebrates Harlem Renaissance at IWU

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## **SAVVI Celebrates Harlem Renaissance at IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University's Sisters Actively Visualizing Vitality through Intellect (SAVVI) will host a Harlem Renaissance celebration beginning on Feb. 14 (Thursday), that will conclude on Feb. 16 (Saturday).

Festivities will begin on Thursday, when Thomas Streeter, IWU professor of brass instruments and theory, will give an overview and historical glance at the music of the Harlem era at 4:00 p.m. in the Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library.

The cultural movement known as the Harlem Renaissance occurred in the early 1900s, when African-American literature, art, music, dance, and social commentary began to flourish in Harlem, a section of New York City. The Renaissance presented the unique culture of African-Americans and redefined African-American expression, identity, and history. American culture was also changed as a result, as never before in history had so many Americans exposed themselves to the thoughts of African-Americans, embracing the community's productions, expressions, and style.

Harlem Nite 2002, which will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 in the Hansen Student Center, 300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington, will serve as the highlight of the Renaissance celebration. The event will consist of live jazz music, vocal, poetry, and dance performances, swing dance lessons, food and mock casino gambling.

Participants are free to dress in 1920s clothing for the event.

On Saturday, there will be The Harlem Cypha, an open mic poetry event reminiscent of the cultural movement, at 9:00 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center's Underground, 104 E. University St., Bloomington.

SAVVI president Kristin Gregory, class of 2003, an English-writing major from Carbondale, Ill., encourages everyone to attend. "This celebration is meant to commemorate an artistic movement that allowed a culture to articulate its concerns and its passions through music, art, and literature," said Gregory.