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Apr 21st, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## **Strike a Pose: A Photoessay on the Role of Women Bowlers in the Bloomington-Normal Community**

Molly Jean Carpenter, '02  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
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Poster Presentation PB

**STRIKE A POSE  
A PHOTOESSAY ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN BOWLERS IN THE  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL COMMUNITY**

Molly Jean Carpenter and Rebecca Gearhart\*  
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A wife and mother, Mary Jo began bowling in 1965 in order to “get out of the house.” In bowling, she like many other women of the Bloomington-Normal bowling community found a sport that is challenging and attracts friendly and supportive people. However, Mary Jo and fellow teammates in “The Lady Majors” bowling league express concern about negative misconceptions, such as bowlers are violent and drink heavily, that non-bowlers may have about bowlers. By method of discussion, observation, as well as collaboration with Mary Jo and “The Lady Majors” as to what visual and verbal representations they felt best portrayed their sense of place in the community, this photoessay investigates how stereotypes about bowlers lose their validity in light of how the sport perpetuates team work and support among bowling teams and in the evidence of bowlers extending their attitudes of team work and support to the entire bowling community as well as the greater Bloomington-Normal area.