Each year, the Women's Institute on Sport and Education conducts a national symposium dealing with pertinent issues affecting girls and women. The theme of the 1997 event was "Of Primary Concern: Health and the Female." This seventh annual symposium was held in conjunction with Chatham College and the NOW Foundation, and was the first in a series of workshops and symposia over the next two years, culminating with the international women's health symposium entitled "Our Daughters, Ourselves" to be held in 2000.

The Symposium consisted of three integrated parts: the speakers and workshops, the Hall of Fame Induction and the special awards.

Among the speakers were the following representations from governmental agencies: Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (NIH), Director for the Center for Mental Health (US Dept. of Health and Human Services), US Assistant Surgeon General, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, and the US Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

The Women's Health Initiative (WHI), a project of the Office of Research on Women's Health, is a long-term national health study of strategies for preventing heart disease, breast and colorectal cancer and osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. These chronic diseases are the major causes of death, disability and frailty in older women of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This $628 million, 15-year project, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will involve 164,500 women aged 50-79, and is one of the most definitive, far reaching clinical trials of women's health ever undertaken in the U.S. The WHI will attempt to redress many of the inequities in women's health research and provide practical information to women and their physicians about hormone replacement therapy, dietary patterns and calcium/vitamin D supplements, and their effects on the prevention of heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis.
The following are Selected Presentation Abstracts:

**Dr. Nancy Wardwell: Gladys E. Palmer (1895-1961) Innovator and Instigator of The First National Collegiate Golf Tournament for Women.**

Dr. Wardwell provided an historical perspective on the emergence and evolution of competitive golf for women. She described the role that Gladys Palmer played in expanding opportunities for highly skilled female athletes to compete. The work that Gladys Palmer did to bring about the first intercollegiate golf tournament (held at Ohio State in 1941) paved the way for related events in the institutionalization and organization of competitive sports for women. Gladys Palmer was a visionary who opened the doors to organizations such as GWS (Girls & Women in Sport) and the AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.)

**Jennifer Beller and Sharon Stoll: Female Student Athletes' Moral Reasoning 1987-1997 Ten Year Study Results and Key Points.**

The Hahm-Beller Values Choice Inventory (HBVCI) was used to evaluate 35,000 individuals: 15,000 female athletes in 35 studies.

Female team sport athletes score significantly lower on HBVCI than their non-competitive peers. Female team sport athletes are becoming more morally calloused: lack of respect, honor, and dignity toward fellow competitors, teammates, rules, and the spirit of the rules. Research contradicts, or is unclear with respect to the idea that sports build character. It's more likely that social values are built, not moral values. It's easier to displace responsibility on a team. Female nonathletes, overall, have highest reasoning morally compared to women athletes and men.

Specific comments included:

- Athletes reasoning at junior high level: what’s in it for me?; athletes have to deal with the problem of “taking out” an opponent to gain an edge; the belief exists that it’s “only ethical if you get caught”. Common coaches comment: “I’m paid to win games”.
- The following questions were raised:
  - Are we in denial about the extent to which female athletes do “trash talk”?