

# 2015 MANDELBAUM FELLOWSHIP CITATION FOR ANGELA UNDERHILL

The logo for OCUFA, consisting of the letters 'OCUFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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## **CITATION FOR ANGLEA UNDERHILL**

**Read by Glenna Knnutson, OCUFA Treasurer**

Angela Underhill is the first recipient at the Masters' level of study of a Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship. She is currently enrolled in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition at the University of Guelph.

Her research will explore the impact of sexually transmitted infections on the development of intimate relationships, an area that has not yet received sufficient attention in Canada. Her approach to the research moves away from the current approaches and will allow a fresh perspective regarding the lived experiences of individuals with STIs in intimate relationships. Upon completion of her study, service providers will be able to revamp programs aimed at individuals with STIs and offer research-based resources for those individuals.

Angela's own words speak eloquently to her approach as a scholar: "As I move through the world of academia, I am constantly reminded that research can sometimes miss the most stigmatized populations, making practice impossible due to lack of basic knowledge and proven techniques. I strongly believe that research and education are the only ways to change the negative perceptions and experiences related to sexuality."

One of her referees captured the essence of her research interests and importance of her work by stating: "The clear, overarching theme is women's sexual health. Issues of sexual ethics, expression, autonomy, choice, HIV, and maternal health are all interconnected. Angela has had something important to say about each of these issues. Women's sexual health is a social justice issue. Her contributions will continue to make a difference."

In 2014, Angela was a summer research student at the Women and HIV Research Program under the aegis of the Women's College Research Institute. Her supervisor described her as one of the brightest, most hardworking, and critical thinking students she has encountered. The same referee noted the "maturity with which Angela tackles the sensitive nature of her research area." Angela's summer internship was extended into a part-time position supporting two major studies on HIV and adoption and mothering on the margins.

She has been active as a volunteer as a sexual health educator, peer support at a women's centre, and student career leader. She also volunteers for Planned Parenthood.

Please join me in congratulating Angela Underhill, this year's recipient of the Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship, Master's level.