



Fall 1994

Network News Fall

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**Minority
ALUMNI
Network**

NETWORK NEWS

Fall, 1994

The Minority Alumni Network would like to thank every one for their continued support in 1994. Over the last few months, the network has had some board changes. We would like to extend a huge welcome to the new board members; Juan Salgado '91 Networking/Career Development Co-Chair (with Debra Burt-Fraizer '75), Lynette Thomas '86 and Nita Shinn '90 Social/Homecoming Co-Chairs. From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank Rosemaria Shelby '73 for all of her work as the past Social/Homecoming Chair.

We would also like to thank Monica L. Taylor '88 for overseeing the newsletter and coming on board as the Network's Communication Chair. Monica asked me to thank Malik Jones '91 and Yvonne C. Jones for their contributions to this newsletter. Please send any information you would like to see included in the next newsletter to Monica. Anyone interested in helping Monica, and in forming a Communication Committee, please contact me.

We appreciate your contributions and suggestions to the Network and look forward to another prosperous and productive year.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Barker
General Chairperson

P.S. We will be looking for you at Homecoming, October 14-16, and will be there to welcome you with open arms. Please call one of the chairs and let us know that you are coming. The network is proud to announce that Ansel Johnson '81 will be recognized at the Alumni luncheon as the Outstanding Young Alumnus. We are very proud of his accomplishments.

MINORITY ALUMNI PHONOTHON

On April 17, 1994, several alumni took part in the first annual Minority Alumni Network Phonothon in Matteson, Illinois. The purpose was to establish a scholarship fund for minority students at Illinois Wesleyan. The evening proved to be quite successful considering minority alumni (22) pledged \$1,655. Several pledges are yet to be paid but the Network is pleased with the initial results.

In addition, we also called accepted minority students to answer any questions and further their interest in Illinois Wesleyan. Additional phonothons are scheduled to take place in the fall and next spring.

MINORITY STUDENT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On Sunday, May 1, 1994, (IWU Mom's Day) the Fifth Annual Minority Student Recognition Ceremony was held to a standing room only crowd in the Davidson Room of the Memorial Student Center. Several faculty members, administrators and students were part of the program. A welcome was given by President Minor Myers, jr. and the keynote address was given by Associate Director of Development, Yvonne C. Jones. Her message, geared towards the seniors, proved to be very inspirational. Students were recognized for their exceptional academic success or noteworthy campus involvement. The Black Student Union's Executive Board were recipients of the Campus Pioneer Award because of their outstanding planning and implementation of campus diversity programs. Dr. Ana Parent and Monica L. Taylor '88 were the recipients of the Council of Latin American Student Enrichment and Black Student Union President's Awards respectively.

It was also announced that four students would be recipients of the First Annual Minority Alumni Network Awards. These awards were presented to: Kyra Steward, first year student; David Paul, sophomore; Lisa Montalvo, junior; Carla Chubb, senior. These students were presented their plaques at the annual Honors Convocation on May 11, 1994.

LEMONADE IN THE SHADE - PICNIC '94

On August 7, 1994, alumni, friends, incoming and current minority students gathered for the third annual Minority Alumni Network Picnic. For the second year in a row, we had the pleasure of assembling at the home and spacious yard of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson (Ansel's parents). The new president of the National Alumni Association-Chicago Region, Raymond D. Berger '70, joined us with many other alumni, students, and their parents. The franks and burgers were cooked by chef's Sam Hall '91 and Juan Salgado '91. The picnic proved to be an encouraging welcome from the alumni to the incoming students and their families. A fun and rewarding time was had by all.

NEW STUDENT/ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT

This fall Illinois Wesleyan will have the pleasure of welcoming twenty-five more incoming African-American (15), Hispanic (9) and Native American (1) students. One special quality of this class is that the nine entering Hispanic students represent the largest number in at least the last nine years. Also, this year's entering class has the highest academic profile in the last several years. For example, the average ACT score is 25.7 compared to the IWU average of 27.9.

In regards to athletic recruitment, at least ten of the incoming minority students plan to participate in varsity athletics. The sports include: football (5), women's tennis (1), men's basketball (1), women's swimming (1), women's track/cross country (2), men's track (1) (some students are playing more than one sport).

Special thanks are in order for Malik T. Jones '91 for being instrumental in recruiting the Class of 1998!

WHITE SOX OUTING

The Minority Alumni Network sponsored outing to the new Comiskey Park in Chicago on September 16, 1994 was cancelled due to the Major League Baseball Association strike. The Network would like to thank Anthony Tolbert '77 for planning this second annual White Sox outing. Hopefully, we can schedule another sporting event in the near future.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Homecoming '94 will be held October 14-16. Once again the Minority Alumni Network has planned several events for the weekend. Kicking off the weekend will be a mentoring session for current students facilitated by Dr. Ansel Johnson '81 in the Davidson Room of the Memorial Student Center at 9:00 p.m. Later that evening you are welcome to join some of the alumni at After Hours Night Club, 612 N. Main, Bloomington. (After Hours is the only Black owned club in Bloomington.)

Following the game on Saturday, the Minority Alumni Network has planned a post-game networking session facilitated by Lynette Thomas '86 at the Multicultural Center, 1405 N. Park Street, Bloomington. After the post-game networking session the Memorial Gym will be the site of the first annual alumni vs student Minority Alumni Network basketball and volleyball games. In order for us to have an idea of how many alumni may participate, if you are interested please contact Malik T. Jones at (309) 556-3190. Later on that night, the Network will be gathering at The Bombay Bicycle Club, Bloomington, for an informal social. Come boogie with the alums.

Capping off the weekend festivities will be the Second Annual Do-it-Yourself Gospel Festival and Recognition Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. in Evelyn Chapel. Acknowledged this year will be Professor Paul Bushnell, Dr. Thomas C. McKinney, Jr. '69, and Rosemaria Shelby '73.

In addition, Dr. Ansel Johnson '81 is being recognized by Illinois Wesleyan University as the Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumnus Award at the Alumni Luncheon on Saturday. Dr. Johnson is a Chicago-area optometrist who on May 18, 1994, introduced President Bill Clinton at the White House, when legislation extending the Head Start pre-school education program through 1998 was signed into law. Dr. Johnson was part of the first Head Start class in 1965. If you are interested in attending the Alumni Luncheon the cost is \$7.50 and should be sent with your Homecoming reservation form to the Alumni Office, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900. Make checks payable to Illinois Wesleyan University. The Alumni Luncheon is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. with the dedication of the Shirk Athletic Center. **Please call a Network board member if you are planning to attend Homecoming.**

NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND YOU

If you move, if someone you know moves, if you run into someone who has not been hearing from us, please, please, please let us know. Just call any of the chairs and give them the updated mailing information.

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN JOINS WADE McCREE

IWU has become the first private college and the first non-Michigan campus to join the Wade H. McCree, Jr. Incentive Scholarship Program. The program is named for well-known attorney, federal judge, and U.S. solicitor general under President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981). Over 200 students are currently attending 11 Michigan public universities. Participating campuses mentor students from the 9-12 grade who are pre-assigned to them. The eight-year-old scholarship program guarantees that talented minority students from Detroit will be able to attend college. IWU has pledged to fund three graduates of Detroit public high schools. IWU intends to involve the Detroit-area alumni in various enrichment programs with the three students that will be assigned to Illinois Wesleyan.

Students must take college preparatory courses and are counseled to exceed minimum standards in mathematics, science, and foreign languages. To enter college as McCree scholars, students must maintain vigorous academic quality in terms of their high school grade point average and test scores on various college admissions exams.

Dr. Rebie Kingston, Director of Guidance and Counseling for the Detroit Public School System oversees the Wade McCree Program with Dr. Lewis Ellis, former Superintendent of Schools for Detroit. Dr. Kingston has recently been appointed to Illinois Wesleyan University's Board of Trustees. Congratulations and welcome to Illinois Wesleyan.

CABRINI CONNECTIONS NEEDS YOU

Dan Bassill '68, President and founder of Cabrini Connections, a non-profit organization which works primarily with African American youth from the Cabrini Green housing development, is looking for volunteers from our Minority Alumni Network. The group has sponsored numerous field trips to colleges including Illinois Wesleyan. In addition, many speakers such as Gwendolyn Brooks, Silas Purnell, and Merri Dee from WGN in Chicago, have met and spoken to the Cabrini Connections students.

Illinois Wesleyan University has established an advisory council that will be working directly with Cabrini Connections. Earlier this year the Minority Alumni Network sponsored its third annual Mike Seeborg economics class visit to Cabrini Connections with some of the Cabrini students. Jim Sikora's sociology class also joined the group.

Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:20 p.m. at Wells High School in Chicago; on Thursday evening to assist in the tutoring program and on Saturday mornings. The Thursday and Saturday meetings are held at the Montgomery Ward building at 535 W. Chicago Avenue, 21st Floor, Chicago, IL. For more information please contact Dan Bassill at (312) 467-2889.

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