



Spring 1994

Network News Spring

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**Minority
ALUMNI
Network**



NETWORK NEWS

Spring, 1994

THANK YOU . . . THANK YOU . . . THANK YOU . . .

The Minority Alumni Network would like to thank each and every one of you for your overwhelming support throughout 1993. Because of the support that the Network has received from Alumni, especially minority Alumni, we are quickly becoming recognized as one of the most active Alumni groups Wesleyan has ever had.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Network committee chairs from the very bottom of my heart.

Debbie Burt-Frazier '76
Networking/Career
Development Chair

Samuel E. Hall, III '91
Admission/Recruitment
Chair

Sylvia Edwards '75
Fund-Raising Co-Chair

Anthony Tolbert '77
Fund-Raising Co-Chair

Rosemarie Shelby '73
Social Events/Homecoming Chair

Dr. Ansel Johnson '81
Mentorship Chair

Without your tireless and selfless contributions the Network would merely be another good idea that never came to fruition. You can never be thanked enough.

Sincerely,

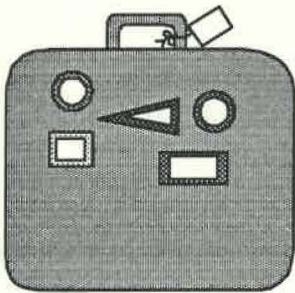
Phyllis Barker
General Chairperson

NOTHING BUT A PARTY!!!!



On December 2, 1993 the Network held a Holiday Bash at the Cotton Club in Chicago. Don Johnson '70, who called at 6:15 a.m. the morning of the party to say he was coming, said it was worth the drive from Joliet. Gabrielle Herndon '91, celebrated her birthday with the help of everyone else in the house who had turned a year older since the preceding August. The cake and all of the food provided was delicious. We all have Rose Shelby '73 to thank for a wonderful evening.

YOU REALLY CAN GO HOME AGAIN !!!!



Homecoming '93 was a joy to behold and a thrill to be a part of. Debbie Burt-Frazier '75, with the assistance of Tony Tolbert, '77, kicked off the weekend on Thursday afternoon with a career planning session for current students. The session was well planned and received. Way to go Debbie and Tony! On Friday night Ansel held a mentorship session that attracted not only the majority of minority students on campus, but a good number of Alumni. Barbara Bradley '64, recently retired, indicated that this was the first Homecoming that she had attended in many years.

Students and Alumni were able to sign up for the Mentorship program, while many students and Alumni who were already matched got a chance to talk. Ansel did an outstanding job, but the show was almost stolen by Dr. Edelbert Rodgers '33 and his lovely wife Virginia. No, you did not misread the year. Dr. Rodgers graduated from Wesleyan in 1933. This was his sixty year reunion. More about the Rodgers' in a moment. One current student was moved to remark that he had never seen so many African Americans in the Multi-Cultural Center. Nice job Ansel!

Saturday was too cold to be true. But a few brave Alumni, Amanda Toney '74, Anthony Tolbert '77, and Myrtis Sullivan '74 braved the elements and participated in the 5K walk/run. (Well, somebody had to do it.) The only Alumni who sat for the entire football game must have been Dr. Rodgers. Saturday night the Network co-hosted the after reunion dinners social. Although most of us were starting to wilt a bit, we had a good time.

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Sunday proved to be the Network's finest hour. The Do-it-Yourself Gospel Fest and Recognition Program that was held in Evelyn Chapel brought tears to your eyes. Rose Shelby outdid herself in planning and then overseeing the execution of the program. Dr. Rodgers was recognized as our oldest living minority Alumni and President Minor Myers, jr. was recognized for his support of the Network. There was also a special recognition of Mrs. Corine Sims of Bloomington, for her help with the program. All hats off to Rose for a beautiful program!

Thanks to all of the Alumni who came to Homecoming. It could not have happened without you. Special kudos to Gail Beck Thomas '73 of Maryland and Phillip T. Wilson '77 from California for coming the furthest.

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME! PICNIC '93

Due to the gracious hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson (Ansel's parents) the Network was able to have its second annual picnic in the lap of luxury. The Johnson's allowed us to use their home and surrounding grounds for the best picnic yet. Ben Rhodes '69 and his family drove up from Bloomington, while Dr. Tom McKinney, Jr. '76 flew in from St. Louis. The rest of us got there by whatever means necessary.



More than a wonderful time was had by all. If you missed this one, fret not, the third annual picnic will be held, Sunday, August 7, 1994 — that is the first Sunday in August. Mark your calendars. Details on time and location will be forthcoming.

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NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND YOU . . .

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



YOU CAN ALWAYS VOLUNTEER !!!!

The Network would like to thank Monica L. Taylor '88 for volunteering to oversee written communications, including this newsletter. Monica has been the Acting Director of Minority Services at Illinois Wesleyan since September, 1993. As the Acting Director, Monica attains, refines, and evaluates minority students' academic and social well being. Anyone interested in helping Monica, and in forming a Communications Commiteee, please contact Phyllis Barker.

The Network would also like to thank Stephen Garnett '75 for volunteering to be the Minority Alumni Network Historian. Stephen is a free-lance writer and college English teacher with a background as a Chicago Journalist.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Wenona Whitfield '70 has been recommended by Senators Paul Simon and Carol Mosley-Braun to become the first woman and first black federal judge in the Southern District, which covers the state's 38 southernmost counties. Wenona is an associate professor of law and has taught at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale for 10 years.



MINORITY STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Office of Minority Services will be sponsoring a Minority Student Recognition Program on Sunday, May 1. For more information, please contact Monica Taylor '88, Acting Director of Minority Services, 309-556-3412.



ANCHORS AWAY

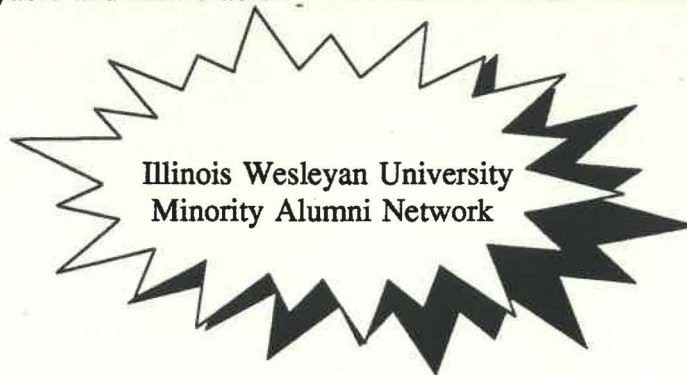


The setting was Navy Pier, Chicago, on June 25th. The mood was "thank God it's Friday," and we finally have a chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of work and the big city. The Minority Alumni Network sponsored a well deserved and relaxing sail along Lake Michigan's beautiful skyline. We cruised for two hours on the lavishly equipped luxury liner, "Spirit of Chicago." We indulged in a tempting spread of hors d'oeuvres to initiate the happy hour atmosphere. The festive feeling continued as the cruise employees involved Alumni in fun and games. In the Wesleyan tradition, Alumni were active participants in the on-deck

activities. This was a great opportunity to meet new friends and to get re-acquainted with others. The Network board members were in attendance as was Reinhold Weege '71 and a host of other Alumni from various class years. The whole experience made all who attended enthused and looking forward to the next event.

WHITE SOX OUTING

On September 10, the Minority Alumni Network sponsored an outing at the new Comiskey Park in Chicago. The game was well attended by Alumni and friends. Unfortunately, the White Sox did not match our enthusiasm — the Detroit Tigers defeated the White Sox 4-0. Despite the loss and the brisk "Windy City" breeze, the highlight of the evening happened when a seating section full of IWU Alumni was spotlighted on the large screen above the scoreboard. In summary, this outing was very enjoyable and memorable.



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