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Year of Landmarks and Challenges

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Year of Landmarks and Challenges

Good morning, and on behalf of the Illinois Wesleyan University Student Senate I would like to warmly welcome each and every one of you back to your home away from home for the next academic year! We are all extremely enthusiastic for both this upcoming semester and year as a whole, and it is surely one for the history books. However, it is of paramount importance that we take a small bit of time to marvel at our many past successes, but more importantly set our goals and plant for the time yet to come. The theme this year may be walls and bridges, but personally I see this year in particular as one of landmarks and challenges.

I know many of you have probably noticed certain developments sprinkled around our campus by simply strolling about. I used to think it was impossible, but our campus has become even more gorgeous and astatically pleasing than we left it. What was once a busy street that segmenting our campus into two mutual exclusive parts has transformed into a gorgeous tree-lined promenade that will provide our campus as a collective with additional locations to hangout and enrich our minds. Along with this is the iconic sculpture walk on the Eckly Quadrangle that provides additional beautification to our campus, in the form of Kodak moments in the making and added yet an additional level of intrigue to I-W-U. Though please promise to me that you will not climb onto them or hurt yourself or others. And for this in particular, would like to extend my gratitude to both President Wilson and Dr. Pat Wilson. This truly would not have transpired without their diligent work and buy in.

And ... speaking of President Wilson and being this is the “President’s Convocation “this year is a landmark in yet another way. This year will commemorate his 10th year leading our university as president, and he has surely led our university forward in many areas. I can say full-heartedly it has really been my pleasure to work with President Wilson. That being said, on behalf of the Student Senate I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all the work you have completed, such as the Transforming Lives campaign and various capital developments around campus to name a few, and for all the work yet to come. Thank you (Pause)

In continuation, Student Senate is enduringly commitment to providing both high quality entertainment parried with activities to help students develop professionally, academically, and become more civically engaged. As many of you may have heard, during turning titan we announced that we are bringing a certain entertainer to campus with some of the most inspiring and prolific quotes that I can think of. Some of these being:

- “The world is split into two halves: the bacon, and the bacon eaters”
- “Never half-ass two things, whole-ass one thing” (And)
- “Any dog under fifty pounds is a cat and cats are useless”

Oh yes, on October 25th we will be hosting Nick Offerman, more popularly known by his screen persona of Ron Swanson, on our campus for a night filled with laughs, comedy, and witty humor. Correspondingly, we are excited to welcome Valarie Kaur to campus on September 11th and 12th to learn how the power of storytelling and advocacy can greatly influence legitimate social change. Though I can assure you that these are just two events of the many we are planning this upcoming semester to bring the whole campus community together.

Furthermore, right now as I speak to you and you sit in those comfy chairs, the elections of Student Senate are live with many impressive students of this institution contending to contribute to leadership on campus and to be a voice for their peers. This year we set a record for the number of students running in this election, and I look forward to yet another productive year along with having a bit of fun along the way. As a Senate, we will continue to strive to be a strong voice and advocates to the entire student body and represent their collective interests in any and all capacities available.

Lastly, and maybe more importantly, I would like to issue a challenge to all of you to make the most of this year. Both academically and socially, both in terms of papers and in terms of number of hours given back, in terms of leadership and inclusiveness. Make the most out of it Titans!

THANK YOU!