



Spring 1997

Network News Spring

MAN, Illinois Wesleyan University

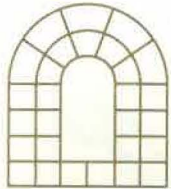
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ILLINOIS
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

**Minority
ALUMNI
Network**

MINORITY ALUMNI NETWORK NEWS

Spring 1997

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Do you have any IWU photos or old letters from when you attended IWU? Let us know!

Stephan Garnett '75, historian for the Minority Alumni Network, is chairing a committee charged with developing a book on the history of minority students at IWU.

Any photos from "earlier" years or letters (which will be returned) will be extremely helpful and beneficial in helping to create a factual account of the minority student experience.

Other committee members include: Jane Baines—IWU Development, Jessica Brown '98, Professor Paul Bushnell—History, Derek Davis '98—BSU President, Yvonne C. Jones—IWU Development, Amber Larsen '2000, Bob Mowery—IWU Archivist, Professor Pam Muirhead '68—English, Lonnie Smith '94—State Farm, Monica Taylor '88—Multi-Cultural Affairs, Carl Teichman '80—President's Office.

PHOTOS AND LETTERS CAN BE SENT TO:

Yvonne C. Jones
1540 N. State Pkwy.
Chicago, IL 60610

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Stephan Garnett '75
(773) 468-5711

or

Yvonne C. Jones
(312) 943-4561

E-mail: yjones@aol.com.

Wanted: Faculty, Staff

Faculty

IWU has published ads in the *Chronicle for Black Higher Education* seeking minority candidates for faculty positions at IWU. Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Janet McNew, sent a letter to members of the Minority Alumni Network providing a listing of all tenure-line faculty openings at IWU for the next academic year, 1997-98. McNew stated, "We are quite disappointed with the percentage of minority individuals on our faculty." She continued, "We believe the active and personal recruitment through our various networks offers us the best chance of finding candidates genuinely interested in teaching in a fine undergraduate liberal arts college like IWU." She also invited any suggestions and asked alumni to call her with any questions or ideas. If you know of anyone in a Ph.D. program, talk with them about joining your alma mater's faculty. Dr. McNew can be reached at: (309) 556-3101.

Staff

Wanted: Hall Director—a 10-month, full-time position. Half-time in residential life and one-half in either Multi-Cultural Affairs, Greek affairs, student activities, or orientation/retention. Bachelor's degree required, master's degree or experience preferred. Familiarity with the goal and ideals of a liberal arts, residential institution highly desirable.

Compensation is room and board and a salary (living in a residential hall is required).

Interested individuals should contact Darcy Greder at (309) 556-3413, asap.

Thanks,

Debra Carlson Wood, J.D.
Dean of Students

ATTENTION!!—All Members of the “Elite Eight”

The current students at IWU are interested in revamping some of the black Greek organizations on Illinois Wesleyan's campus. Monica Taylor '88, Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs, stated that the new Dean of Student Affairs, Debra Carlson Wood, is very open to bringing back these organizations that once graced our campus. With the largest freshman minority class in over 10 years, students have stated that they have the numbers along with the strong interest to help make this desire become a reality. However, the possibility of this happening is dependent upon on the response of our alums. If you are a member of one of the “Elite Eight” and are interested in reviving one of these organizations, please contact Monica Taylor '88 at (309) 556-3412 and/or Yvonne C. Jones at (312) 943-4561.

The Silas Purnell Minority Student Scholarship Fund

Anthony Tolbert '77 and Sylvia Edwards '75, co-chairs of the Fundraising Committee, recently sent a letter to minority alumni regarding the newly established Silas Purnell Minority Student Scholarship Fund. Tolbert and Edwards announced that during the last fiscal year (August 1995-July 1996), alumni made gifts totaling over \$3,000. The fund helped to provide scholarships for currently enrolled minority students. The co-chairs expressed satisfaction with the amount of gifts from the first year, but remarked that with the largest minority freshman class in almost 10 years—40 students (28 African-American, 12 Latino-American) there still remains a need for additional support to keep these students at Illinois Wesleyan. With that in mind, the Minority Alumni Network has established a minimum goal of \$5,717 (the average financial aid gift per student) for the 1996-97 year. These contributions will make a difference in the lives of students with financial need. If you have any questions regarding the Silas Purnell Fund, please feel free to contact Yvonne C. Jones at (312) 943-4561, Anthony Tolbert '77 at (708) 747-2349, or Sylvia Edwards '75 at (708) 720-3653.



Students of Color Weekends



Last year, Hannifah Powe '96, Esther Franco '96, Vernee Irving '96, Jenny Johnson '99 and Nicole Brown-Williams '98 spearheaded and initiated IWU's first “Students of Color Weekend.” As a result, their efforts helped to recruit 40 minority students in this year's freshman class. (Sixteen of these students participated in the Students of Color Weekend.)

So far this year, there have been two Students of Color Weekends on campus. We hope to continue the success in “making a difference.”

Overview of Homecoming Weekend



Homecoming '96 was a great success for the Minority Alumni Network. Over 50 minority alumni were on campus with their family and friends. One of the highlights of the weekend was the IWU Alumni Luncheon on Saturday, October 10, where Phyllis Barker '73, General Chairperson of the Minority Alumni Network, received the IWU Alumni Association Loyalty Award. Britt Travis '81 received the Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. The honorees for this year's Gospel Festival and Recognition Ceremony on Sunday were: Mr. C. Robert Berg '65, Associate Professor Barrington Coleman '80, Frankie Faison '71, Dr. Janine A. James '75, State Farm Insurance Companies and Yvonne C. Jones—IWU Associate Director of Development. Our special guest on Sunday was the University of Illinois Gospel Choir.

•In 1996, IWU Associate Professor Barrington Coleman '80 accepted a position with the University of Illinois. We wish him all the best and much success in his new endeavor.

Letter from Barrington Coleman '80

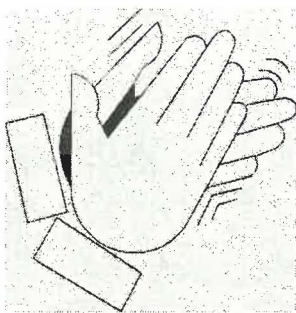
**To: Yvonne C. Jones, Associate Director of Development
Phyllis Barker, M.A.N. Chairperson
Monica Taylor, Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs and
the entire Minority Alumni Network Executive Board of IWU**

Dear Yvonne and Friends,

In my efforts to acknowledge the impact you have impressed upon my life, the lives of countless other distinguished alums and minority students, I find effective vocabulary difficult. Nevertheless, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for your decision to include me in such a humbling and enriching recognition ceremony. I never considered returning to the IWU campus with such a distinction. Yet, I am so thankful to be considered worthy and effective for my service, action and outreach. As I indicated during the ceremony, please don't hesitate in communicating any needs to me and my family, particularly because your Network has contributed to who we are as an African-American Family.

Thanks for your friendship,
God Bless You,

(signed) Barrington Coleman, Class of '80



Jessica Brown Awarded CBS Scholarship

Jessica Brown '98, former BSU President majoring in English and Political Science, was among 52 college students, nationally, to win a scholarship from CBS, the television and radio network. Jessica, a graduate of Chicago's Kenwood Academy High School, received the \$2,000 scholarship earmarked for minority students with an interest in radio, television or print journalism from the Westinghouse

Foundation. Westinghouse is the parent corporation of CBS. Jessica is the urban music director and disc jockey for WESN-FM (88.1), IWU's radio station, and a columnist for *The Argus*. She also has written for *The Voice*, an African-American newspaper circulated in four Central Illinois cities.

Gossip Column

•Samuel E. Hall, III '91 married Monica (Cheek) Hall '90 on September 14, 1996 in Rantoul, Illinois. Malik T. Jones '91 was the head usher. The newlyweds reside in Dolton, Illinois. Congratulations!!! What was that statistic we were always told when we were at Illinois Wesleyan—50% of Illinois Wesleyan grads marry Illinois Wesleyan grads? Well, Sam and Monica inflated that percentage.

•Melanie Hilliard '95 is engaged to Marcus Manning, a computer science graduate of Southwest Texas State University and a software consultant at Exxon. The wedding is scheduled for January 3, 1998 in Houston, Texas. The couple plan to reside in the Houston, Texas area. Congratulations to the soon-to-be Mannings!!!

•Monica Taylor '88 has been initiated into the Beta Iota Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Congratulations!!!

•David Paul '96 has been initiated into the graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. Congratulations!!!



Please feel free to forward any GOOD news, i.e., promotions, first home, children, marriages, engagements, etc., to the Minority Alumni Network Newsletter, c/o Yvonne C. Jones, Illinois Wesleyan University—Chicago Regional Office, 1540 N. State Pkwy., Chicago, IL 60610.

MINORITY ALUMNI NETWORK BOARD MEMBERS

GENERAL CHAIR

Ms. Phyllis Barker '73
3001 S. King Drive, Apt. 618
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 842-2751

ADMISSION RECRUITMENT CO-CHAIRS

Mr. Samuel E. Hall, III '91
14486 Lincoln Ave.
Dolton, IL 60419
(630) 201-9653

Mr. Malik Jones '91
7823 S. Michigan
Chicago, IL 60619
(773) 783-4573

FUNDRAISING/SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Sylvia Edwards, BSN '75
5900 Woodgate
Matteson, IL 60443
(708) 720-3653

Mr. Anthony Tolbert '77
4445 Jefferson Drive
Richton Park, IL 60471
(708) 747-2349

HISTORIAN

Mr. Stephan Garnett '75
9814 S. Indiana Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 468-5711

MENTORSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Vernee Irving '96
2249 W. 111th Street, Apt. #3
Chicago, IL 60643-3945
(773) 239-6617

Dr. Ansel Johnson '81
22429 Amy Drive
Richton Park, IL 60471
(708) 385-0013

MENTORSHIP CO-CHAIRS (Cont.)

Mr. Juan Salgado '91
2148 W. 19th, 2nd Floor Rear
Chicago, IL 60608
(773) 918-0312

Mr. Lonnie Smith '94
118 S. Prospect, Apt. L-120
Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 662-7346

NETWORKING/CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Ms. Debra Burt-Frazier '75
15118 Blackstone Avenue
Dolton, IL 60419
(708) 849-9273

SOCIAL/HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Esther Franco '96
6841 S. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60636-3241
(773) 776-1449

Ms. Gabrielle Herndon '92
1750 Memorial Dr., No. 2W
Calumet City, IL 60409
(708) 868-0784

Ms. Lynnette Thomas '86
418 W. 34th, Apt. 315
Steger, IL 60475
(708) 756-7167

IWU STAFF:

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Yvonne C. Jones
1540 N. State Parkway
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 943-4561

DIRECTOR OF MULTI-CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Monica L. Taylor '88
Illinois Wesleyan University
PO Box 2900
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900
(309) 556-3412