



Winter 2001

The Network Voice Winter

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The Network Voice

Winter Edition • 2001 Vol. 1

Interview with Debra Burt-Fraizer '75

By Kristin Gregory, '03

While often times loyalty is not a virtue that is revered or recognized, it is always a pleasure to be congratulated for being faithful and true to institutions about which you are passionate. For Debbie Burt-Fraizer '75 this passion is volunteerism and support of Illinois Wesleyan University. On October 6, 2001, IWU alumni and friends joined in commending her devotion to the passion of volunteerism and support by presenting her with the Loyalty Award.

The loyalty award recognizes alumni who have benefited Illinois Wesleyan either through service to the University, strong financial support, or both. To receive this honor, alumni must first be nominated, and nominations are accepted from all alumni. At that point, according to Steve Seibring, Director of Alumni Relations, the Alumni Office looks at all of the nominees and makes recommendations to cabinet. The university cabinet then chooses the recipients, awarding two each year. This year the

awardees were Alice Siegfried '42 and Debra Burt Frazier, whom colleagues say stood out among those nominated for the award.

"Debra has a long history of involvement and support at Illinois Wesleyan," Seibring said. "Every year there are dozens of great candidates for this, but Debra really, really stood at the top this year, especially taking over as co-president of the Minority Alumni Network."

Loyalty does not deal with service done recently, but is a treasured attribute because of its steadfastness over time. Over the years Frazier has not only served on the Minority Alumni Network executive board of the Alumni Association, but also as a



The Frazier family, Max, Debra and Nick.

volunteer phonathon caller, and on the Chicago Alumni Executive Board.

Seibring said, "It's the history of things she's done over the years that made her a prime candidate." But Frazier isn't one to toot her own award. In fact, she says she was truly awestruck to hear she'd be recognized for her efforts, but quite appreciative.

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From New York to Bloomington

Dayna Vidas, '03

In the wake of September 11, everyone in the world reacted and reached out in different ways. Being away from the IWU campus, you may not be connected to the happenings in Bloomington at Illinois Wesleyan University. How did the students react? What did the administration do in this time of terror?

The administration and students acted with such zeal to this terrible tragedy. The first event held was held that evening at an IWU Community Forum in which so

many students attended that there was only standing room. US News & World Report commented upon Illinois Wesleyan in its special edition report:

"...nearly 500 students walked outside after a special campus forum called at Illinois Wesleyan University. Quietly, they broke into small groups, each with its own faculty counselor. They sat in circles on the still-warm grass long after the sun went down on this infamous day and talked about what its events meant to them at

that weighted moment in their young lives."

Illinois Wesleyan President Minor Myers, whose brother walked out of the World Trade Center and across the street for coffee just seconds before the first plane crashed, watched them disperse. He had expected 25, maybe 50 of the school's 2,000 undergraduates to come to air their concerns and fears on such short notice. "The large turnout shows the sensitivity and caring nature of the students," Myers

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From the Mailbox...

Just a quick, informal message letting you all know that Ron and I welcomed Sydney Jordan Green into the world on Wednesday, September 5th at 8:14 p.m. Sydney weighed in at 7 lbs. and 3 oz. and was 19 and 1/4 inches long.

Darius is very happy to have his little sister here finally and Ron is very much in love. I'm exhausted, of course, but the family is here helping out.

She's a beautiful, healthy baby.

Yours truly,

Vernee (Irving) Green '96

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Please get in touch with us and let us know what you're up to or if you would be interested in writing an article at:

Lonnie Smith:

lonnie.smith.gl3x@statefarm.com or 309-735-2191

Dayna Vidas:

dvidas@iwu.edu or 888-IWUALUM ext. 1355

Email Addresses Needed

In an effort to compile a list of all MAN members' email addresses, we need your help. Please send your current email address to iwuevent@iwu.edu and indicate that you are a MAN alumnus.

INTERVIEW WITH DEBRA BURT-FRAZIER — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The loyalty award was kind of an affirmation of my efforts of what Illinois Wesleyan University means to me, and what the Minority Alumni Network means to me. It's encouragement for me to move on."

What is even more admirable is that Frazier did not accept this award looking solely at her own accomplishments, but what receiving it meant for current and future IWU minority students.

"Minority students add a lot to the environment at Illinois Wesleyan. Other cultures get to be exposed to minority students and when they graduate into a world like Illinois Wesleyan are benefitting from having contact and exposure with minority students, just like minority students benefit. We add so much to the cultural diversity that is Wesleyan."

With a singing spirit and gracious smile, Debbie always looks to the future and hoping that her loyalty to the university will make Illinois Wesleyan a better place in times to come.

"One day we're going to have a couple hundred minority students and I'll feel glad cause I'll have something to do with that."

Our Condolences...

Caleb Johnson, Jr., father of Dr. Ansel Johnson '01, passed away on November 17, 2001 at South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest, Illinois. Caleb was an asset to the community as a trustee of the Village of Robbins and a director of summer youth programs in the 1960's. He also was the host of the Minority Alumni Network Picnics at his home every year. He will greatly be missed.

Lets All Pull Together

By Travis Pearson, '94, IWU, Associate Director of Development

January 11th, 2002 is the date for the second annual Martin Luther King Observance Celebration at the Harambee House (also known as Dusty Banquet Hall). This party has taken the place of the holiday party normally held in December. Alumni from classes of 1975 through 2000 traveled from different regions to gather with friends, Jeremy Daniels '00 traveled the furthest from Virginia. If you weren't around last year, unfortunately, you also missed some of the best home cooked food made, away from the home. You also missed the surprise on the face of Lynette Thomas '86 when she received an award for her service and commitment from the Network. For those of you that celebrated the first annual celebration, please come back and continue to be a part of a new tradition. Those of you who weren't able to make it last year, please join us this year.

Come celebrate the vision of Dr. King with family and friends at the Harambee House, 11901 S Loomis, Chicago. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm and end around 10:00 pm, dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. The cost for the evening will be \$20.00, which includes your dinner, non-alcoholic beverages, dessert and entertainment. There will be a cash bar. Harambee is a Swahili term for "lets all pull together," which is what we should all do for this Martin Luther King Observance Celebration.

If there are any questions, please contact Deon Hornsby at (312) 831-3769, (815) 741-8485 or at dhornsby@alumni.iwu.edu.

FROM NEW YORK TO BLOOMINGTON — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. And by his measure it proves that in such a tragedy, "There is no heartland. There is no North. There is no South. We are all touched by this, as a nation."

Events that dealt with the issue of the September 11th attack ranged from "Mourning with Art" to musical memorial services to panel discussions to blood drives. These events have continued on throughout September and October. Travis Sierra '05, a first year Latino student who attended the memorial service said, "It provided for a moment of reflection for everyone who died. The music helped to add forms to the people who died for the students. It helped to show what the US should do and how to outlet their grief."

If you are interested in reading about some of the many events that happened on the Illinois Wesleyan campus, visit the website at http://www.iwu.edu/~iwunews/special_edition/index.htm.

The Titan Classic

By Travis Pearson, '94

In January 2001, Lonnie Smith '94, Kedzie Curry '94, and Monica Taylor '88 held a vibe session with a group of students to discuss what their needs and desires would be of a local chapter of the Minority Alumni Network, called the Central State Chapter. The students wanted more opportunities to interact with alumni to discuss career paths and to share with one another about similarities and differences of their experiences while attending IWU. They also expressed the need for an alumni phone directory and competitions with alumni in volleyball, double-dutch and/or football.

At this past Homecoming, which was the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Minority Alumni Network, we met the needs and desires expressed by the students in the vibe sessions—healthy competition in the form of the Titan Classics. There were participants for the double-dutch showcase and the gridiron showdown. Next year we'll work on getting people ready to play volleyball. If you ask this reporter, I think the students were too scared to play, but this is just my opinion.

Debbie Burt-Frazier '75, Amanda Toney '74, Myrtis Sullivan '74, and Nicole Brown-Davis '99 were some of the alumnae involved in the double-dutch competition. Everyone had a great time and no one was seriously injured.

The football players arrived at 9:00 am on McPherson beach. The alumni were early getting pumped up in preparing for the battle. If you were to ask Danny Sherrod '03 of our pre-game warm up, he would say we needed to be there early to rub on the Ben

Gay and massage the arthritis out of our joints. Their team consisted of current students and prospective students from King High School in Detroit Michigan. The game was scheduled to play at 10:00 am, but the students didn't field a full team until 10:30 am. There is speculation that the students didn't respect their opponents and didn't obey Wilson Muscadin's '03 set curfew.

The alums struck first and shocked the much younger students with our quickness and knowledge of the game. But our legs didn't hold up and Mo (momentum) switched sides. The students ran off 5 unanswered touchdowns as the cheerleaders for the alums ran the oxygen tanks on and off the field between plays. The alums realized it was not wise to play man coverage with a much younger team and switched to a zone defense. The alums also had three different quarterbacks in the game, which is always a formula for disaster. Rev. James Fother '86 started out behind center and though unsaid, the alumni were hoping he would be the reason for divine intervention.

The final score of the game was 49 to 42 in favor of the students. Overall, each of the participants had a victory because bonds were made and the younger generations now know they have additional resources to call upon when they have life issues.

Please find time to update your contact information with the university by calling 1-888-IWU-ALUM or online www.iwu.edu/alumni. As mentioned before we were all winners that day, please take time to volunteer.

Soul Food Dinner

By: Dayna Vidas '03

Have you seen the Disney movie, "Remember the Titans"? It's a story about the merger of three racially divided high schools in 1971 Alexandria, Virginia where Denzel Washington portrayed Herman Boone.

Well, Illinois Wesleyan now is proud to announce and invite you to attend the annual Soul Food dinner with guest speaker Herman Boone, the real life coach that inspired the movie. Boone will tell his inspiring story and speak about the importance of diversity.

A native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Boone accepted a position at E.J. Hayes High School in Williamston in 1961. His football teams acquired 99 wins with only eight losses in a nine-year period. His 1966 team was recognized as "the number one football team in America" by Scholastic Coach magazine. Boone has also been Coach of the Year six times.

In 1971, the City of Alexandria appointed Boone as the first head coach over a legendary coach with several years of seniority, Bill Yoast. Boone was able to pull together a coaching group filled

with diversity and a group of unfocused boys to have the team ranked second in the nation. President Richard Nixon was quoted as saying, "the team saved the city of Alexandria."

Boone is currently retired, but remains actively involved in the community and is a genuine inspiration to people of all races and backgrounds.

"The film is inspiring, intense and emotional, and those said feelings

encouraged me to bring Boone to speak at IWU," said Rhina Bhanot '03, Student Senate Issues and Programming Commissioner.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's Soul Food Dinner and speaker on February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at Illinois Wesleyan's Shirk Center in Bloomington. For tickets, contact Lora Nickels at 1-888-IWUALUM ext. 1355 or by email at iwuevent@iwu.edu. Don't forget to mark your calendars!





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Upcoming Spring issue...

- Black Student Union Fall Weekend
- Photo gallery from Homecoming
- Campus news

