



2005

## Black Student Union (BSU)

2005 SEP Students, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Darius Gant  
July 17, 2005

### BSU Report

In 1968, the Black Student Association (B.S.A.) was established. A few years later the Black Student Association evolved to be known as the Black Student Union (B.S.U). B.S.U. adopted its constitution in February of 1971. The Constitution stated that they were out to promote Black culture and awareness, obtain close relations with each other, to promote unity between the Black students and the student body of Illinois Wesleyan University and with the Black community. The Black Student Union has made effort to achieve the goals set forth in its Constitution by taking part in things such as sponsoring events aimed at educating the public about Black culture, bringing guest speakers to the University, and other actions that could cause change on Illinois Wesleyan's campus and in the community. One of the larger events that B.S.U. has sponsored is Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend. It is an occasion in which the Black community can celebrate the great steps towards racial equality that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. accomplished. This event consists of a gospel celebration, a fellowship dinner, and a speaker. Both Bernice King and the son of Dr. King have been speakers at this event. Members in the Black Student Union have also outwardly spoken about the hardships that Blacks face on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan. Some newspaper articles taken from the Argus illustrate members of B.S.U. speaking of how the social environment for Blacks was not suitable for them to feel comfortable in their environment. This has been instrumental in the establishment of minority organization such as Black Men in Action, SASA, and Savvy. As time has passed it is evident that the Black Student Union has put for the effort to obtain the goals set forth in its constitution.

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“...The Dream is still Alive!”  
-Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Black Student Union

# Mission Statement



**We, the African American Students of Illinois Wesleyan University, in order to promote a better atmosphere for minority students, have created this organization for the well being of everyone in the Illinois Wesleyan University.**

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!!!

**History**

\$100

\$200

\$300

**Goals**

\$100

\$200

\$300

**Events**

\$100

\$200

\$300





# History



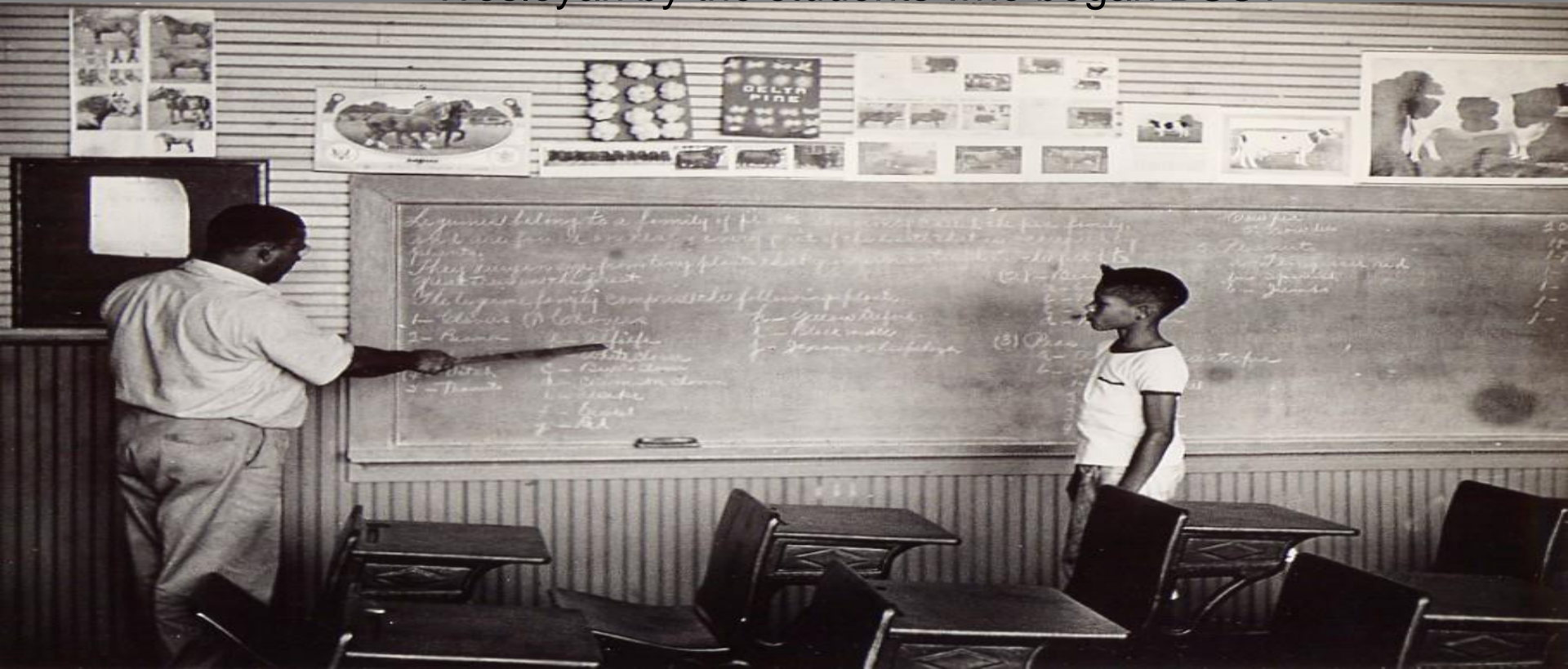
Question: What decade was Illinois Wesleyan's Black Student Union founded?

- A) 1950's
- B) 1960's
- C) 1990's
- D) 2000

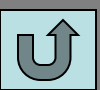


# History

Question: What request was made to the President of Wesleyan by the students who began BSU?



- A) More courses in African culture.
- B) Increase in enrollment of African-American students
- C) Increase of African-American faculty and staff
- D) Both B and C





# History

Question: From 1900-1950 how many black students attended Illinois Wesleyan University?

- A) 30-40
- B) 50-60
- C) 70-80
- D) Over 100



# Purpose/Goals

# UNITY

Question: What has BSU done to unite the African-American community at IWU?

Answer: BSU often has informal social gathering to establish a stronger social bond in the African-American community.



# Purpose/Goals

**Question:** What has BSU done to help IWU increase diversity on campus?



**Diversity and Unity Build a Community**

**Answer:** BSU has hosts prospective students in their visits to IWU.



# Purpose/Goals

Question: Why does BSU open events and meetings to everyone rather than limiting it to minorities?



Answer: BSU is out to educate all students on African-American culture, regardless for race.





# Events

Question:  
What  
event does  
BSU hold  
that gives a  
glimps  
e of African-  
American  
music?



- A) Rap City
- B) Funk Fest
- C) Motown/ I  
Love the  
90's
- D) The Beat



# Events

**Question:** What event does BSU hold that allows students the opportunity to freely express themselves?



**A) Freestyle Friday**

**B) Fight Night**

**C) Lyricist Cypha**

**D) None of These**



# Events

Question: What event has BSU been known to sponsor that celebrates the achievement of a great activist?

Answer: Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Celebration









# Progression

As time has passed it is evident that the Black Student Union has put forth the effort to obtain the goals set forth in its constitution. Continuous cooperation between the BSU and IWU administration has and will continue to make great strides in diversity, equality and unity on campus.