2007

Kemp Hall 20th Anniversary Remarks

Richard F. Wilson

Illinois Wesleyan University

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/wilson_news/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
We are here to celebrate both International Week and the 20th Anniversary of I-House, a facility that symbolizes our commitment to an educational experience that transcends oceans and continents. Today we welcome alumni, friends and area officials who recognize the importance of our role in a global community; a role Illinois Wesleyan University strives to advance. Today we celebrate more than a building, but the people and the memories that make it exceptional.

- The beginnings of the great adventure reach back into Illinois Wesleyan’s history. The classic-revivalist mansion was finished in the early 1900s, built by A.E. DeMange, a prosperous Bloomington citizen and owner of the Inter-Urban Trolley. DeMange sold the property to Illinois Wesleyan University in 1912.

- The house became Kemp Hall, named for Illinois Wesleyan’s eighth president Theodore Kemp, who served from 1908 to 1922. President Kemp gave his personal note to secure the $65,000 property.

- Throughout the University’s long history, Kemp Hall has served as a dormitory to both women and men, a dining hall, and administrative offices. Kemp has been a rallying point for the University, a key path for parades, celebrations and for serving the nation. The Hall became the headquarters for the Student Army Training Corps. During World War I and was used by the Navy as a V-5 training facility during World War II.

- Kemp Hall continued the tradition of serving the University when it was renamed Kemp Hall/International House in 1987. The ceremony dedicating the house included flags from the nations represented on campus by international students and a United Nations flag. Illinois Wesleyan students now refer to the building as I-House.

- Darcy Greder was Director of Residential Programs when planning began for the International House that now celebrates its 20th anniversary. She chaired the I-House Committee that developed the programming, recruited the first students and staff, and worked over the years to fine-tune the role of I-House in the residential life of the University. On behalf of the International Office and the University, I am pleased to offer this framed photo of I-House to Darcy as a lasting memory of her work.