



2011

2011 CFW Summit Speaker Biographies

Illinois Wesleyan University

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COUNCIL FOR IWU WOMEN 2011 SUMMIT
Presenter Biographies
March 4 and 5, 2011

PAT BASS '66 – *Keynote Speaker* - graduated from IWU with a degree in theatre and absolutely no idea what she was going to do with it. Rather than move back in with her parents in Washington, IL and take a secretarial job at Caterpillar, she got married and moved to Colorado. This was 1966, and because she hadn't majored in nursing or education, there weren't too many other options. Seemed like a good idea at the time. Between 1966 and 2011 she figured out what to do with her BFA. Her career in the marketing communications field spanned the corporate world, not-for-profit organizations, and higher education, most recently as the Interim Vice President for Public Relations here at her *alma mater* in 2005. During those years she also raised two sons (both liberal arts graduates), held a number of leadership positions in her community, and worked hard to break down some doors for future generations of women and girls. Today Pat lives in the Chicago area with her husband, (not the same one from 1966). Between them, they have three sons, two daughters-in-law and one grandchild. While she is technically retired from the workforce, she is definitely not retired from life. Her involvement includes political work, the American Association of University Women, as much travel as time and money will allow, classes at the Apple store, and, always, IWU.

Jacqui Bliss '99 - *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee*-Anytime Fitness owner/operator since 2007 and head trainer, Jacqui Bliss, has been in the fitness industry & training since 1996. At Anytime Fitness, Jacqui trains 25 hours a week of clientele and also leads 4 group personal training sessions per week. She does this while maintaining her responsibilities as a club owner and overseeing the personal training department. Jacqui is also very active in community and local events. In 2009, Anytime Fitness was awarded "Oak Cliff Business of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce. Oak Cliff is a Dallas community of over 400,000 people. Prior to Anytime Fitness, Jacqui owned and managed Fiziquest Fitness & Training in Indianapolis, a membership facility with an emphasis on personal training. There she became known for transforming the lives of countless members through her highly customized training programs and meticulous follow-up. Jacqui's client retention rate is astounding due to her ability to develop a rapport with clients and to help them achieve results. Jacqui is a National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) since 1999. She is also an IKFF certified kettlebell teacher (CKT). Prior to Fiziquest, Jacqui opened FitSpa, a spa offering skin care and wellness services, while continuing her personal training career, which began her 2nd year in undergrad. She obtained her (ACE) personal training certification & Madd Dog Athletics SPIN® Instructor Certifications in 1996. While receiving numerous accolades as a 3-sport athlete and Track & Field All-American at Illinois Wesleyan University, Jacqui studied Health Sciences as an undergraduate. She followed this up with graduate studies in Exercise Physiology and a grad assistant position in Strength & Conditioning at Illinois State University. Jacqui strives to ensure her clients' workouts are innovative and effective. By focusing on each client as an individual and by paying careful attention to their cues and needs, her workouts can be challenging and fun at the same time. Jacqui is continuously learning by gaining new certifications, training with other professionals, and assessing years of feedback and records of clients over the years. jacqui_bliss@hotmail.com

CLAUDIA BROGAN '77 – *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, Community Cancer Center Presentation; Saturday, Icebreaker and Introductions*- continues to make great use of each of the primary areas she studied at IWU: theater, English and education. She has worked at several Midwestern universities as a supervisor in residence life and a classroom instructor. Working at UW Madison, Indiana University and UNC Charlotte have been rewarding -- and she continues to have a special place in her heart for the great life lessons she learned at Illinois Wesleyan. After receiving a Master's Degree in Education and with a continued fascination with adult learning, Claudia works as a Training Manager in the field of public health. Her workplace is the Public Health Informatics Institute in Decatur, Georgia. cbrogan@phii.org

KATIE COLEMAN '04- Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Preparing Oneself for the 2011 Job Market- Katie Coleman graduated with a degree in English-writing and minors in political science and Hispanic studies. While at IWU, she served as editor of The Argus, worked at the Career Center, played percussion in the band, joined Sigma Alpha Iota, and was active in the University's environmental and diversity pursuits. She is currently the Associate Director of Communications and Development for the Delta Institute, a Chicago-based non-profit that advances green economic development goals in the Great Lakes region. Her work there includes management of the organization's website, social networking, media relations, foundation outreach and programmatic marketing. Previously, she worked as a grant writer for the non-profit Environmental Law & Policy Center, the leading environmental advocacy organization between the coasts, and in a communications capacity for the Michigan Environmental Council. She also received a master's degree in environmental journalism from Michigan State University and has worked as a reporter for several small media outlets. Outside the office, Katie is active with the IWU Council for Women, serves as Board member for the Safer Pest Control Project, volunteers as a webmaster for several small organizations, and is working to earn her black belt in karate. katieelizabethcoleman@hotmail.com

Julie Croxton '07- Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, State Farm Women's Networking Group - A 'hip' accountant, Julie Croxton enjoys combining her analytical mind, attention to detail and outgoing personality in her work. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. While at IWU she was active in the Accounting Society, a member of the Women's Club Volleyball team and a four year student assistant at the Business Office. After graduation she spent a year working in public accounting for McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as an Audit Associate. Currently Julie is a Financial Statement Analyst with State Farm Insurance. At State Farm she is a member of Young Business Professionals and the Women's Networking Group. In her spare time Julie enjoys playing on volleyball leagues, spending time outdoors and is active in the United Methodist Church. Julie hopes to use her talents along with the ideals instilled in her by the many strong women who have touched her to empower the young women of IWU. julie_croxton@hotmail.com

LAURA CURTIS '07-Young Alumni Panel- graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. During her time at Illinois Wesleyan, Laura was an active member of Kappa Delta Sorority and Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. She also worked at the Alumni Office and Tommy's Restaurant, and interned at BroMenn Hospital with Volunteer Services, and in the BroMenn Foundation Department. Laura spent some time after graduation working for The Baby Fold in Normal, for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois in Bloomington, where she worked for 2 years, and recently made the switch to the hospitality industry. She now works for the Hampton Inn & Suites in Normal as the Sales Coordinator. Laura has a background in event planning, fundraising, volunteer management, and sales. She is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and neXt Professionals. In her spare time, she enjoys growing her Mary Kay business, spending time with her best friend Cori, and traveling to Chicago to see her family. lcurtis07@gmail.com

LAURIE DIEKHOF- Friday, Careers 'n Coffee-serves as the Assistant Director and Internship Coordinator for the IWU Hart Career Center. In this role, she helps students to research and uncover potential internship opportunities and assists students with preparations for the internship or job search -- polished resumes, professional cover letters, and effective interview skills. Laurie is also the campus liaison with businesses and organizations that hire IWU students as interns. Laurie has a Master's Degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Ball State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Prior to IWU, Laurie served as Program Manager for the Community Education program at Heartland Community College. Her previous professional work includes owning a children's book and gift basket business, serving as director of the United Way Volunteer Center and working in residential life at the University of Illinois and Illinois State University. She has a passion for children's literacy and serves on the

Board of First Book-McLean County, an organization that works to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. diekhoff@iwu.edu

LISA DIETER '02- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Successful Women Invest in Themselves*- focuses on developing investment strategies and the dynamic management of client portfolios with specific expertise in portfolio analysis and asset allocation techniques. Her team currently manages \$150 million in assets, a substantial portion of which is advising for corporate 401(k) and defined benefit (pension) plans. Lisa has extensive banking and financial planning experience having begun her career at J.P. Morgan Chase, where she ultimately became vice-president of investments. She then worked as an Investment Management Associate with Mesirow Financial and is now with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Lisa holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in mathematics and music from Illinois Wesleyan University, and attained the Certified Financial Planner designation. She is also FINRA licensed, holding the series 6, 7, 63, and 65. lisa.m.dieter@mssb.com

ANN HARDING- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee*- is a "connector" who's worked with IWU students for more than 23 years. She enjoys knowing many people in many walks of life so she can connect those with like interests. Now the Director of Alumni Relations at IWU, Ann wants to use her talents to teach IWU's female students to achieve work-life balance. "I want students to know that changing their career path is okay, and that being a stay-at-home mom is okay, too," she says. Her work in the community includes past president of the Illinois Small College Placement Association, McLean County Board member, Past president of SunRise Rotary, American Red Cross Board member, Easter Seals Advisory Board member. Ann is married and the mother of three sons, two of which are IWU alumni. aharding@iwu.edu

ELLY JONES '91 – *Co-Chair of the Council for IWU Women; Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, Saturday, State Farm Women's Networking Group*- has been involved as a volunteer instructor for the American Red Cross, as well as the Secretary and Board member of Kiwanis International for the Encanto-Skyline Club of Phoenix. After relocating to Bloomington for her career, Elly has been active with the Council for IWU Women Summit each year. Not only has she had the chance to meet great students, but she has also met many inspiring IWU women alums. Elly actively supports the Women's Networking Group at State Farm. They explore women's business issues, career development, mentoring, enhancing their leadership competencies, as well as volunteer for civic opportunities. Elly also volunteers for the YWCA as a committee member of Women of Distinction. elly.jones.c46g@statefarm.com

LOREENE JUKOVICH '93- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, Community Cancer Center Presentation; Saturday, Cocktail School*-After graduating from IWU, Loreene began a career in healthcare at a law firm interviewing patients for public aid at local hospitals throughout the Chicago area. During the next 15 years, she has worked in many facets of healthcare administration including physician and hospital contracting, national account management, HR outsourcing and operations. Working full-time, part-time, project work and eventually working from home were all part of balancing work and home life. Loreene remains active in the IWU community as a member of the Council for IWU Women. She also volunteers as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader. Loreene and her husband, Dean, an IWU alum; have three beautiful children. ljukovich@comcast.net

CAROLE LISKE '77 – *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, Community Cancer Center Presentation; Saturday, Icebreaker and Introductions, Cocktail School, Awarding of Scholarships*- Her past professional experience has been evidenced by her lifelong service to the community, as a hospital and office nursing leader, civic advocate and community volunteer. Starting her nursing career as an active member of the leadership team at Good Samaritan Hospital, Carole completed her Master's Degree in Science and then joined the administrative team of Provena Mercy Medical Center where she last served as Clinical Director of Nursing. While raising her children Carole continued to serve her neighbors in a variety of health promotion positions which included advance nursing care in the medical office and school settings, as well as through political board appointments including the Kendall County State of Illinois IPLAN Committee, Kendall Community Council on Wellness,

and the Kendall County Mental Health Advisory Board. In addition to past membership on numerous Boards, Carole's ongoing commitment and the education of others is evidenced in her current work as a member of the Council for IWU Women, member of the Board of Directors for Gateway Foundation, chair of the Gateway-Aurora Advisory Board, member of the Provena Mercy Medical Center Foundation Board, member of the Lay Board of Trustees at Rosary High School, and President of Kendall County Women's Organization. She has been recognized as Person of the Year, Fox Valley Family YMCA and as Volunteer of the Year by the Kendall County Youth Service Board. Carole is the former Dean of Academic Affairs and National Project Manager for Chamberlain College of Nursing. cdliske@sbcglobal.net

DESARAE LUDOLPH `05 –*Saturday, Moderator – Young Alumni Panel*- is considered a "townie" in IWU terms, meaning she was born and raised in Bloomington/Normal. While at Wesleyan she was involved in Sigma Kappa, the softball team and worked at the University sports information department. Thanks in huge part to an internship set up by the IWU Career Center, Desarae interned at National City Mortgage her last 2 years of college. She was offered a position as a mortgage loan officer after graduating and has now been there (now called PNC Mortgage) for almost 6 years. Desarae qualified for PNC's President's Council for her production in 2010 as one of the company's top 7% of loan officers in the country. She is passionate about helping consumers become homeowners and loves her job. Desarae is married to her husband Brian and they have one 2 year old daughter and four sons. Desarae.Ludolph@ncmc.com

Karin McDowell `00- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Cocktail School*- is a project manager in ITS at COUNTRY Financial in Bloomington, IL. Karin started her career at COUNTRY as a Media Relations intern. After a post-graduation one-year stint at the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company in Chicago, IL, as their Internet/Intranet Coordinator, she returned to Bloomington and COUNTRY Financial as a Communications Analyst. Between 2001 and 2009, Karin worked in several different departments in Corporate Communications, including Communications, Web Publishing and Projects and Executive Communications before moving to ITS in 2009. Now, she works on special projects as a project and change manager. In the community, Karin is on the boards of the Autism Society of McLean County and Susan G. Komen for the Cure McLean County Affiliate. She has two future Titans Ian (age 7) and Reid (age 3) and a dog that likes walks on the IWU Quad with her "I bark for the Titans" leash karin.mcdowell@gmail.com

MOLLY MCLAY `06- *Friday, Community Cancer Center Presentation; Saturday, Young Alumni Panel*- is happiest when she is using her intellect and her creativity to help others. As an IWU student, she toiled tirelessly (but lovingly) on Tributaries literary magazine, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, work-study jobs, an internship at Planned Parenthood, and several academic honors societies. After graduating with a BA in English writing and women's studies, she worked in publishing for two and a half years before returning to school to pursue an MSW from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As an MSW student, Molly has served as social chair for her graduate college's student association; educated university students on sexual health topics as a graduate assistant at McKinley Health Center; and collaborated on research projects with faculty. She will graduate in August and is currently completing her social work field practicum at the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault in her hometown of Springfield, where she provides counseling and legal advocacy to survivors of sexual assault and works in the evenings as an on-call medical advocate and hotline respondent. She makes a mean cup of tea, loves her dog Oliver and her boyfriend Aaron, and will take any opportunity to sing karaoke. mollymclay@gmail.com

BARB NATHAN `80 – *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee, Community Cancer Center Presentation*- Is a graduate of the IWU School of Nursing. She chaired the IWU's Distinguished Nursing Alumni Committee, as well as the School of Nursing 50th Anniversary Reunion. Barb is Executive Director of the Community Cancer Center and Foundation in Bloomington/Normal. Barb has combined her passion for nursing and service to the community into a thriving career. Her development activity for the Community Cancer Center has resulted in more than \$8 million in charitable contributions. She currently serves as the Treasurer of the American Academy of Medical

Administrators (AAMA), is Past President of American College of Oncology Administrators and has been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Medical Administrators. Beyond work, Barb is active in civic groups throughout McLean County and the state of Illinois.
bnathan@cancercenter.org

JESSICA OLSEN '08 – *Saturday, Young Alumni Panel*- Is back in her hometown of Rockford after spending a year teaching English to first through fourth graders in Hamburg, Germany. She teaches freshman, junior, and senior English, is the assistant coach for the varsity girls' basketball team, and also helps out the track team at Boylan Catholic High School. In addition, she is the student advisor for the Community Restoration Project. Jessica also works weekends at Saturday Kids Club, a weekly program for children from low-income families in the Rockford area. jessica.l.olsen@gmail.com

LAURA RANDOLPH '92 – *Preparing Oneself for the 2011 Job Market* - Is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with a private practice here in Bloomington. After graduating from IWU with a degree in Biology she went on to graduate from medical school and complete two surgical residencies at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL. She earned her board certification in General Surgery as well as Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She entered into private practice in 2004 and finds daily challenges balancing career and family. She is happily married to an orthopedic surgeon and has three beautiful children. She is a proud member of the Council for IWU Women, the Illinois State Medical Society, and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.
l.c.randolph@att.net

Justine Robinson '06 - *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee* - is the Assistant General Manager at Eastland Mall in Bloomington, IL where her primary function is contributing to the financial success of the mall through effective leasing of temporary space to tenants. Justine started her career with CBL Properties as a Marketing Coordinator for both Eastland Mall and Hickory Point Mall in Forsyth, IL and was promoted within seven months of being hired. Prior to her being with CBL, she worked as the Marketing Coordinator for a local physician recruiting and consulting firm for two and a half years. Justine graduated from IWU with a BA in Business Administration and was involved in numerous groups including Alpha Gamma Delta, Panhellenic Council and the American Marketing Association. She now enjoys participating in local networking groups including the IWU McLean County Region Alumni, neXt Professionals and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. Justine's hobbies include decorating, spending time with family and working out and current goals involve personal and professional development opportunities. justine.d.robinson@gmail.com

MOLLY ROLLINGS '99 - *Co-Chair of the Council for IWU Women; Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Cocktail School* - graduated with a BS in Risk Management and Insurance. Molly is a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC). She says "I am following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather before me. My grandfather had one insurance agency in Arcola, IL. My father took it to six locations before selling. There are currently 20 locations throughout the state." Molly is the unofficial marketing director for the entire Dimond Brothers Insurance Agency, Inc., as well as selling and servicing her book of business. Molly served as the Small Commercial Producer /Manager of Small Business Division of Hub International of Illinois, Ltd., Chicago, IL and the Commercial Underwriter, Technical Field Specialist for Selective Insurance Company, Columbus, OH. Molly is a member of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce including Young Professionals Network, Board Member and President of the Champaign Area Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Association, IIAI Young Agents, and Member of Agency Councils for Hartford, Travelers, and Selective and Cincinnati insurance companies. mmrollings@yahoo.com

ALISSA SHERMAN '08 –*Saturday, Young Alumni Panel* - graduated from IWU with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in Hispanic Studies. As a student, Alissa was involved in Sigma Kappa, Hillel, Sierra Student Coalition, Spanish Club, and the Student Nurses Association. She presented a poster at the John Wesley Powell Research Conference and volunteered with the Alternative Spring Break trip in New Orleans. When she

graduated, Alissa worked at the Mayo Clinic as a nurse and member of the Evidence Based Practice Council. Alissa currently works as a critical care nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Rush University Medical Center. asherman@iwu.edu

JESSICA SHULL '03- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Young Alumni Panel, Awarding of Scholarships*- has a motto: Inspire action. Present with passion. Undeclared...Philosophy... Sociology... she changed her major several times and finally realized a pattern. Jessica had a passion for consumer behavior and after taking one Marketing course with Dr. Fred Hoyt, she knew where she wanted to focus her career. An IWU internship helped her get in the door, but not too long after she was a full time Marketing Analyst for State Farm. Nearly nine years later she has had the blessing and privilege of helping launch the social media strategy to the agency sales force of State Farm. Jessica has the pleasure of helping others see the business value these channels provide to the brand, reputation, and bottom line of the company. Communicating this strategy in actionable terms, she inspires others to make social media a part of their digital brand whether in a one on one consulting session with a sales associate or speaking to a group of over four hundred. jessicalynnshull@yahoo.com

AMY SIPOVIC '08 - *Saturday, Young Alumni Panel*- graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a concentration in Secondary Education. She is in her third year teaching World History and Civics at Streator Township High School in Streator, Illinois. Amy also serves as the Key Club advisor at SHS, and is a member of the Streator Kiwanis Club. Amy is currently working on her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, which she will finish this May. At IWU, Amy was involved with the Titan Band, IWU Flute Choir, and Phi Alpha Theta. She also worked at the Hart Career Center as a Career Peer and for Sodexo in the Commons. Amy resides in Streator. amysippy@gmail.com

CAROL SMITH '73- *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Preparing Oneself for the 2011 Job Market* - University of Chicago MBA class of 1982. Since graduating from IWU, Carol has focused her career in the insurance sector of financial services industry. She has worked in marketing and operations, management and sales with multiple insurers. For the past decade, working through her own firm Hamilton Smith Associates Inc., she now focuses on engagements with developers of complex software to support insurance processes. Since software design/development is increasingly done overseas, she specializes in working with offshore software providers who want to do business in the US and must comply with US business practices and compliance/tax regulations. carolsmithHSA@comcast.

LINDA STONE '85 – *Friday, Careers 'n Coffee; Saturday, Preparing Oneself for the 2011 Job Market* -Linda has a broad background in insurance and financial services through her experience at two of the largest insurers in the U.S., Allstate and MetLife. Her work has included roles in finance, marketing, communications, brand management, and learning & development. She has led product marketing teams for MetLife's life insurance and employee benefits businesses. She has also been a program manager for two of MetLife's business acquisitions. For the past four years, Linda has had responsibility for MetLife's U.S. brand management activities, including the licensing agreement with PEANUTS[®]/Snoopy. She recently managed brand integration to help launch of the MetLife brand in over 60 countries following a business acquisition. Linda recently began a leadership role in MetLife's Sales Learning Center and is responsible for translating business, marketing & sales strategies into training and development programs for MetLife's Auto & Home and call center operations. Linda is a 1985 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan with a B.A. in Business Administration and German. While at Illinois Wesleyan Linda was a cheerleader and a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She received an M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 1993. Linda resides in Atlanta, GA. She is involved with Special Olympics Georgia and very active in community running and marathon events. lstone@metlife.com

STACY TICHENOR—*Saturday, Preparing for the Job Market Panel* - Stacy received her B.S. in Psychology in 2002 from Rockford College where she graduated magna cum laude, having received the Rheingold Outstanding Psychology Major award and served on the board for both Psych Society and Psi Chi. Stacy currently serves as the Sr. Office Coordinator for the Natural Sciences Division at IWU. Her office provides administrative support to five departments and 60 faculty and staff. Before coming to IWU, she spent five years as a legal assistant and office manager for a law firm in Champaign, Illinois. As a mom with two young children who holds a full time job with IWU and also works as a freelance artist and baker, Stacy believes in living life to the fullest while still finding balance between one's passion and reality. sticheno@iwu.edu

PAT WILSON- *First Lady of Illinois Wesleyan University- Friday, Careers 'n Coffee* -Pat Wilson received a B.S. in English Education from Bucknell University in 1968, an M.A. in Library Science from West Virginia University in 1973, and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Illinois in 1993. She spent 31 years in the public schools in various roles that ranged from high school English teacher, School Media Specialist, Curriculum Coordinator, and Assistant Middle School Principal to 10 years as a Principal and Coordinator of a program serving 360 at-risk/special needs pre-kindergarten children and their families. In 2004 she was named Executive Director of the Council on Teacher Education at the University of Illinois, a position she left to join her husband, President Richard Wilson, at Illinois Wesleyan. A creative organizer, Pat enjoys working with people to reach consensus and achieve compromise in order to move forward. She currently serves on the board of the Westminster Village retirement community, and on the Programming Committee at the Baby Fold. Since coming to Bloomington, she has also chaired the YWCA Circle of Women fundraising effort, and, along with her husband, the American Red Cross Evening of Stars fundraiser. She spends most of her time now working with her husband on behalf of IWU, which includes planning and participating in 40-50 annual events at the President's house, as well as traveling to out-of-town alumni events and meetings with individual alums. plwilson4@yahoo.com