July 2019 CFW Touchpoints

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Greetings! I hope everyone is having a great summer. While it is the quiet time on campus, there is still lots of planning for the upcoming academic year.

As you may recall in our last Touchpoint, I shared that the executive committee met in April. We spent a fair amount of time discussing how to increase student engagement and how to be present where students already are. One of the exciting outcomes of the executive meeting is our new mentoring committee.

We have set a date for our February on-campus event. In April, the executive committee decided to change the name of our on-campus event from “summit” to something that might encourage more engagement from students and other alumnae.

To that end, we are reaching out to each of you for ideas on a new titling of the event. A $50 IWU bookstore gift certificate will be provided to the winner(s). Please send your ideas to me by Friday, Aug. 23.

- Marilynn Graves ’79

IWU’s 2019-2020 intellectual theme is "Fact or Fiction." Again, we will be incorporating this theme into our February on-campus event theme and sessions. As always, we encourage you to read IWU’s selected summer reading: Educated by Tara Westover. Educated is a memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.
Mentoring Committee: Committee members’ vision for this committee is to connect and benefit IWU faculty, staff, alumnae, CFW members, and, most importantly, students. This committee will stray away from the traditional format of mentoring and, instead, plan engaging and fun mentoring events, such as dinners, book clubs, "Adopt a Student” group, and more. The committee is currently working with the Career Center to discuss how we can enhance our partnership with them and learn about how we can get involved with Handshake, a networking site. Stay tuned for more information about that and for an invitation to join a members-only digital book club focused on Educated by Tara Westover, which is the book IWU selected for its summer reading program. If you have any questions, please reach out to the mentoring committee co-chairs: Jackie Bull, Amy DeBoer, or Alissa Miller.

Nomination Committee: Throughout the summer, the committee has been reaching out to potential new CFW members. A list of new members will be available in early fall, and at homecoming, you will have the opportunity to meet and welcome our new members in person.

FOR YOUR SUMMER BUCKET LIST

To help you stay connected to IWU beyond CFW, and as a way to help you meet IWU women who might be interested in CFW, we encourage you to attend regional alumni events. To help, a recurring part of Touchpoint will be to share upcoming events. Please note the event for August and September on the first page. To register for upcoming events, visit www.iwu.edu/alumni.