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Student Senate, Sheean Library Partnership \$10,000, Decade-Long Support of IWU Library by Students To Be Capped Off Jan. 25 with \$1,000 Contribution

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Jan. 21, 2000

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Student Senate, Sheean Library Partnership \$10,000, Decade-Long Support of IWU Library by Students To Be Capped Off Jan. 25 with \$1,000 Contribution

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—A \$10,000 decade-long effort by Illinois Wesleyan University's Student Senate to support Sheean Library will be capped off Jan. 25 (Tuesday), when student-government leaders present a \$1,000 check to library officials.

The 3:30 p.m. ceremony will take place in Sheean Library's information services area, where students use a battery of computers to search databases and perform other types of electronic research. The Student Senate Library Fund has been used to pay fees charged by various database services.

University Librarian Sue Stroyan will accept the check on behalf of Sheean Library. The check will be presented by Harold Gauthier, a senior majoring in political science from Lynwood, Ill., who is the 1999-2000 Student Senate president.

"It's a wonderful feeling to know that the student body made a long-term commitment to Illinois Wesleyan's library," Stroyan said. "They wanted to make a positive statement about the library and helped us move in a new direction," referring to the increased use of electronic databases .

"The library," Gauthier said, "is a crucial part of the experience here at Illinois Wesleyan. Academics and the library—you can't do one without the other."

Gauthier added: "I'm proud of this effort. Students took initiative into their hands and it helped to spark change. Students, faculty, and staff had a chance to work together on a cooperative effort."

Sheean Library, which opened in 1968 and was remodeled in 1993, has a collection of 252,000 volumes and 1,100 print periodical titles. Supplementing the library's general book and periodical collections are a reference collection, a bibliography and index collection, a government documents section, a media center, microform materials, and extensive electronic resources and CD ROM products. It also contains the university archives and the papers of former U.S. Rep. Leslie Arends (Minority Whip and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois from 1935-75) and the Gernon Collection of 19th and 20th Century American Literature. These collections provide students with the opportunity to do original research using primary materials. The library is a member of ILCSO, a network of 44 Illinois

academic libraries, which provides an on-line catalog, resource sharing, and an extensive bibliographic database of more than 21 million volumes available throughout the state.

IWU is constructing the \$23 million Ames Library, which is expected to be available for occupancy in August, 2001. A groundbreaking ceremony for the library took place Nov. 6, 1999.

A \$12 million commitment from B. Charles Ames, IWU class of 1950, and his wife, Joyce Eichhorn Ames, IWU class of 1949, is spearheading the library-construction project. B. Charles Ames, a business administration major when he was an IWU student, is an executive with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, a New York City-based private investment firm. Joyce Eichhorn Ames was an art major when she was enrolled at IWU.

The five-story library—an architectural blend of traditional elements and modern technology—will form a new university entryway on the south side of campus in tandem with a new, two-section, curved gateway, marking the university's sesquicentennial or the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1850. A groundbreaking ceremony for the gateway took place Sept. 22, 1999.

The new library will accommodate 400,000 volumes and a minimum of 100 computer-equipped workstations in a 103,000-square-foot building, situated in a park-like setting. The new facility will consolidate into a single location IWU's library collection now housed at three sites: Sheean, the Thorpe Music Library in Presser Hall (School of Music), and a storage area in the basement of the Center for Natural Sciences.

The new library, which has been in the planning stages since 1996, will feature group study rooms, study carrels, space for special collections and the university archives, an auditorium, full computer networking, and an Information Commons.

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