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Retired IWU Sociology Professor Wins Award from England

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Retired IWU Sociology Professor Wins Award from England

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—A retired Illinois Wesleyan University sociology professor, acclaimed throughout her career for strong stands against bigotry and her work on behalf of underdogs, has won an achievement award from an English organization.

Emily Dunn Dale, IWU professor emerita, has won a Twentieth Century Award for Achievement from the International Biographical Centre (IBC), based in Cambridge, England.

Dale, who retired from IWU in 1992 and is credited with teaching 6,000 students over 33 years, is among 2,000 scholars in 80 nations to be honored by IBC. A jury selected Dale for the award. She will be listed in a forthcoming IBC publication.

Dale said she was "recognized for my work to combat racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, and classism."

A 1992 IWU retrospective on Dale's career pointed out that she passed "along to generations of students a deep respect for human life nurtured by her lifetime of work on behalf of America's underdogs."

According to that article, Dale's first brush with bigotry came at age 8, when she saw hooded Klansmen in a field near her home.

"It was a lesson I would never forget," Dale told the IWU Century Club, which honored her for teaching excellence in 1988. "I made up my young mind that night—though not in these words—that bigotry was evil, faceless, nameless, and that the thing to do was challenge it with every bit of courage and power you could muster—even when the odds were against you."

As a 17-year-old student at Swarthmore College during World War II, she worked with a Quaker group to relocate Japanese-Americans then held in internment camps. More than a half-century ago, she campaigned to desegregate

public facilities in Bloomington-Normal. She also has been an advocate on behalf of abused youngsters, battered women, homosexuals, the poor, and the disenfranchised.

Over the course of her career, Dale has worked with groups ranging from Amnesty International and Planned Parenthood to the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the American Friends Service Committee.

Following Jimmy Carter's victory in the 1976 presidential campaign, Dale drafted a position paper for the Carter administration transition team, offering alternatives to federal policies affecting families.

In April, 1988, Dale was named the first recipient of the Sears Roebuck Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership.

Among Dale's honors is the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Human Relations Award from the joint human relations commissions of Bloomington-Normal.

Dale, a Bloomington resident, earned degrees from Western Reserve University and Illinois State University, as well as a doctorate from the Union Graduate School and a post-doctoral associateship from the University of Minnesota.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. The university's theatre program—then known as the School of Drama—began in 1947. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium.