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Sesquicentennial IWU Homecoming Honors Alums, Features Campus Festival

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Three Illinois Wesleyan University graduates will be honored during IWU's annual Homecoming festivities the weekend of Oct. 13-15 on campus, an occasion that takes on added significance as IWU celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1850.

Stanley R. Baker of San Francisco and Pope Valley, Calif., a 1966 graduate, will be awarded the school's Distinguished Alumnus Award and David R. Smith of North Barrington, a 1990 IWU graduate, will receive the Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

C. Robert Berg of Detroit, a 1965 graduate, is the recipient of the IWU Alumni Association Loyalty Award.

The Homecoming awards will be presented on Saturday at the 11:30 a.m. alumni luncheon in the Shirk Center, one of a number of events planned for Illinois Wesleyan graduates during the weekend.

Also on Saturday, the Sesquicentennial Gates will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m. The pillars, located at Park and Empire, are the focus of the new campus entryway and are originally from Hedding College, which, after closing in Abingdon, merged with Illinois Wesleyan in 1930. They are a gift of the late H. Harlan Bloomer in memory of his parents.

Homecoming Activities

"What a Wonderful World" serves as the student theme for the Sesquicentennial Homecoming celebration. Among the festivities are a lip sync contest at 9 p.m. on Monday (Oct. 9) in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center, with a student talent show scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 11), staged in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

The Homecoming king and queen coronation will be at 9 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 12), in Westbrook Auditorium, and the annual Titan Games, competitions among students in living units, get underway at 5:30 p.m. Friday (Oct. 13) at Fort Natatorium and the stadium. A fireworks show will begin at dusk Friday, following the Titan Games.

The student Homecoming dance will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 14) at Bloomington's Radisson Hotel, Veteran's Parkway and Brickyard Dr.

An alumni golf tournament and a 5-K run are among the activities scheduled. The golf tournament will begin with a buffet luncheon at 11 a.m. followed by the shotgun start to the tournament at 12 p.m. Friday at Bloomington's Crestwicke Country Club. The entry fee is \$50 and includes greens fees, cart rental, lunch, and prizes.

Open to the public as well as alumni is the ninth annual Titan 5-K run/fun walk, which will begin at the IWU track, just north of the Shirk Center, at 8 a.m. Saturday with an entry fee of \$12, which includes a tee shirt.

To sign up for the alumni events, contact Mary Bible at (309) 556-3091.

Also on Friday, a series of free lectures will be presented in the "Back to College" program, covering topics being discussed in student classrooms. The one-hour programs, with presenters, times, and locations, are:

- "Team 2000: IWU in Galilee", Dennis E. Groh, IWU chaplain and professor of humanities and archaeology, 11 a.m., Joyce Eichhorn Ames Art Building room 218.
- "Campaign 2000: The Presidency and Congress", Tari Renner, professor and chair of political science department, 11 a.m., Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center.
- "Illinois Wesleyan - An Historical Overview", Bob Aaron, director of university communications, 1 p.m., Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center.
- "Need a Personal Assistant? Try Using a Free Internet Portal", Tim McKeown, Technology Training Coordinator, 1 p.m., Stevenson Hall, room 103.
- "The Wisdom of the Ages: A Collection of Rare Books and Folios", Minor Myers, jr., IWU president, 2 p.m., Sheean Library auditorium.
- "Technology in the IWU Classroom 2000", Patrick McLane, Instructional Technologist, 2 p.m., Stevenson Hall, room 103.

The fifth annual Festival on the Eckley Quad, free to all members of the community, will take place on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be a virtual reality display, a Velcro wall, a climbing tower from Upper Limits, caricaturists, face painters, and clowns. A variety of refreshments will be available and the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band will perform on the Sheean Library steps throughout the Festival. There will also be performances from the barbershop quarter "Society Rhythm," the Titan Band, as well as an antique car display. Current and former faculty members will be on hand to greet returning alumni during the festival.

Elmhurst provides the opposition for the Homecoming football game at 1 p.m. at Illinois Wesleyan Stadium. Then, from 9 p.m. to midnight there will be the Sesquicentennial Gala, a post-reunion party open to all alumni and friends, at Bloomington's Radisson Hotel, Veteran's Parkway and Brickyard Dr.

On Sunday at 10 a.m. there will be a 150th year Homecoming chapel service, "Where You Once Belonged," then at 11 a.m. will be the Minority Alumni Network Gospel Festival and Recognition Program, both at Evelyn Chapel.

Also on Sunday at 12 p.m., the third annual women's alumni softball game will be played at the new IWU soccer field, located north of the football field on Franklin Ave. For more information, contact IWU head coach Mandy Neal at (309) 556-3348.

Alumni Honorees

STANLEY R. BAKER '66

Distinguished Alumni Award

This award is presented annually to an alumnus/na who has made a distinguished contribution to society, has achieved professional distinction, or has demonstrated civic leadership.

Stan Baker, a 1966 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, is founding partner and vice chairman of The Good Guys, Inc., a leading retailer of consumer electronics with 79 stores in California, Washington, Oregon and Nevada. With projected annual sales of \$1 billion, the company is the country's premier specialty retailer exclusively selling top name-brand, fully-featured, high-end consumer electronic entertainment products.

From 1975 to his retirement in 1991 Baker held a variety of senior executive positions in marketing and merchandising, but has recently returned to the company as chief strategic advisor to help guide the company's resurgence. A board of directors member since the company's 1976 incorporation, he was corporate secretary through 1991.

Baker is currently participating in the launch of GoodGuys.com, a separate e-commerce company headquartered in Portland, Ore.

Baker also has a diploma from the University of Salamanca, Spain, and has attended the University of San Francisco and the San Francisco Art Institute. An Army veteran, Baker was decorated for meritorious service in Vietnam from 1967-68. From 1995 to 1999 Baker was chairman of the board of trustees of San Francisco's Schools of the Sacred Heart, where his children attended, and continues to serve as trustee.

Baker and his wife, Mary, also a 1966 IWU graduate, live in San Francisco and Pope Valley, Calif., with their children, Caskey and Nicholas.

C. ROBERT BERG '65

Loyalty Award

This award recognizes alumni who have benefited Illinois Wesleyan either through service to the University or strong financial support.

C. Robert "Bob" Berg operates his own public affairs consultancy in Detroit, Berg Muirhead & Associates, which has offered strategic planning, media relations, crisis communications and issue management for companies, associations and individuals since 1994.

Berg has been a relentless promoter and student recruiter on behalf of Illinois Wesleyan University, serving as the liaison between IWU and the Detroit Public School system's Wade McCree Program. He organizes trips for Detroit-area students to the IWU campus, arranging for free transportation and accompanying the students. Additionally, Berg has served as co-chair for the Detroit Campaign Committee and currently serves as chair of the Detroit Leadership Giving Council.

Following graduation from Illinois Wesleyan in 1965, Berg studied at the University of Stockholm in Sweden, then worked for the United Press International in Des Moines and Lincoln, Neb., rising to bureau chief in Lansing, Mich. He was capitol bureau chief for Panax Newspaper group in Michigan, then in 1977 he became executive assistant for public affairs to Michigan Governor William Milliken. From 1983 to 1993, Berg served as press secretary for Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young.

A native of Cissna Park, Ill., Berg is married to Carol and they are parents of a daughter, Kristi. Berg has two grown children, Erik and Melanie, from a previous marriage.

DAVID R. SMITH '90

Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Named for a 1968 alumnus and former IWU Alumni Director (1970-73), this award recognizes alumni within 15 years of their graduation for outstanding professional achievement, civic leadership, or both.

David Smith, a 1990 graduate, is the co-founder, co-CEO and president of both Microshare, Inc., and Remington Associates, LTD. These technology businesses provide a hardware and software line that is considered one of the most extensive in the industry. The business consists of three divisions — technology consulting, hardware procurement, and business financing.

Combined revenues in 1999 for Smith's successful startup businesses were over \$40 million. In addition, Smith owns and manages Millennium Properties, a \$1 million real estate rental business. His professional experience includes all aspects of business growth including sales management, operational management, venture capital funding, contract negotiations and strategic partner alliances.

After his graduation from Illinois Wesleyan, Smith earned a master's of business administration from Roosevelt University with a concentration in information systems. From 1992-94 he was sales manager for Computer Applications and Technical Services in Chicago.

Smith is involved in a number of philanthropic organizations, including Big Brothers, Sisters of Mercy, Schaumburg Food Pantry, and American Cancer Society. He and his wife, Kim, live in North Barrington, Ill.