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## **IWU to Honor Five for Community Service at President's Convocation; IWU Alum Sandra Steingraber to Speak**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Five Illinois Wesleyan University alumni will be awarded honorary degrees for their community service involvement at the annual President's Convocation on campus next month.

Scientist, poet, and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, a 1981 IWU graduate and an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer, will deliver an address on "Environmental Human Rights" at the convocation, which will be Wed., Sept. 5 at 11 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall on campus.

Steingraber is currently serving as a visiting professor at Cornell University.

In addition to Steingraber, others who will be awarded honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees are Karen Zander of Newton Highlands, Mass.; and Daniel F. Bassill of Park Ridge, while Jack Snyder of Bloomington and Arthur J. Naparstek of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, will receive honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.

"This academic year at Illinois Wesleyan, there is a theme and focus on environmentalism and community service," said IWU President Minor Myers, jr. "We are honoring these five people who have done great and interesting things in their respective communities, wherever they are."

Steingraber will also present a reading from her latest book on Thurs., Sept. 6, sponsored by the IWU Environmental Studies program. Her talk, "First Environment: The Ecology of Human Reproduction", be at 7 p.m. in the Anderson Auditorium (room C-101) of the IWU Center for Natural Sciences.

Steingraber's new book, "Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood," will be published in October. In it, she relates the month-by-month story of her own pregnancy and the transformation of the mother's body to nourish and protect the new life. At the same time, she shows the hazards we are now allowing to threaten each precious stage of development, including the breast-feeding relationship between mothers and their newborns.

### **Sandra Steingraber**

Steingraber's book, "Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment," presents cancer as a human rights issues. It is the first to bring together data on toxic releases--now finally made available under right-to-know laws--with newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. "Living Downstream" has won praise from national media, including the Washington Post, the Nation, the Chicago Tribune, Kirkus Reviews, and Publishers' Weekly.

She is the also the author of "Post-Diagnosis", a volume of poetry, and co-author of a work on ecology and human rights in Africa, "The Spoils of Famine."

In 1997, Steingraber was named a woman of the year by Ms. Magazine and in 1998 received from the Jenifer Altman Foundation the first annual Altman Award "for the inspiring and poetic use of

science to elucidate the causes of cancer."

Steingraber has keynoted conferences on human health and the environment throughout the U.S. and Canada, including the First World Conference on Breast Cancer held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and has been invited to lecture at many university campuses, medical schools, and research centers. She is recognized for her ability to serve as a two-way translator between the cancer research community and the community of women cancer activists and is active with the Women's Community Cancer Project of Cambridge, Mass.

Steingraber earned her master's degree in English from Illinois State and her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan. She has taught biology at Columbia College in Chicago, held visiting fellowships at a number of universities, and served on President Clinton's National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Karen Zander**

Karen Zander, a 1970 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, is a Boston-area nurse and entrepreneur who founded the Center for Nursing Case Management, an international health-care consulting company with clients in the U.S., Canada, Australia, England and Spain. In the role, Zander has made contributions to nursing education, practice, research and administration and her approach to case management for patients focuses on the multidisciplinary needs of clients and patient outcomes, making accountability a focus of health care.

As principal and co-owner of the Center for Nursing Case Management, Zander is a consultant and educator to hospitals, physicians, health care systems, software, pharmaceutical and consulting companies for the development of tools, roles and systems that support provider-side control of cost and quality.

Zander, who received her master's degree in psychiatric and mental health nursing in 1974 from Boston University, has been certified since 1981 as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing and maintains a private practice in disease management of chronic conditions.

Zander worked from 1970 to 1989 for the New England Medical Center Hospitals in Boston and founded the Center for Nursing Case Management in 1987 in conjunction with the New England Medical Center. It became an independent firm in 1991. In 1996 she was named one of 21 "cutting edge" leaders by Hospital & Health Networks, a trade magazine.

A native of Park Ridge, Ill., Zander received Illinois Wesleyan's Distinguished Award for Excellence in Nursing in 1995 and was IWU's Distinguished Young Alumna in 1980.

Since the age of 18, when he developed his first subdivision of 10 acres in east Bloomington, Jack Snyder has been shaping the Twin Cities. It is estimated that, in his 50-year career, Snyder has developed nearly 9 percent of the cities' 34 square miles.

## **Jack Snyder**

A 1952 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, Snyder's projects have become progressively grander in scale over the years, ranging from the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge (1964) to the Radisson Hotel (1996); from the Oakwoods development (1976) to the Fox Creek subdivision intermingled with an 18-hole Arnold Palmer golf course (1996); and from the six-unit Reinthaler Apartments (built in 1958) to the 392 units of Normal's Ironwood Gardens apartments (1996).

Many local causes have been assisted through the efforts of Snyder or those of one of his companies, including Illinois Wesleyan University, First Christian Church, United Way of

## **Arthur J. Naparstek**

McLean County, the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, the Children's Foundation, the Baby Fold, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and many more. Rather than simply open the addition to the Radisson Hotel last spring, actor Bob Newhart was brought in for a benefit event that sent \$75,000 to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Fund.

With land donated by the City of Bloomington, the Snyder Corp. developed the Wojahn subdivision and donated it to Habitat for Humanity, providing new housing for 27 families that might not otherwise been able to afford a home.

A 1960 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, Arthur J. Naparstek has served since 1983 as the Grace Longwell Coyle Professor of Social Work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Science at Case Western Reserve University and he has devoted more than 25 years to working for urban policy and change, especially at the neighborhood level.

As director of the Cleveland Foundation Commission on Poverty, he helped produce the 1992 report on the Cleveland Community-Building Initiative, and that research in urban and neighborhood policy has resulted in additional legislation aimed at improving conditions in American cities, as well as serving as a curriculum for training residents and public housing in community building.

Naparstek is currently on leave from Case Western Reserve University and is serving as senior vice president and director for United Jewish Communities' Israel and Overseas Pillar. In that capacity he is directing the entity through which the Jewish Federations of North America express their collective responsibility in Israel and other countries where Jewish needs exist.

In 1994 and again in 1998, Naparstek was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the 14-member board of directors of the Corporation for National Service, which supports public-private partnership that provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to help communities meet critical challenges in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

Under President Jimmy Carter, Naparstek was appointed to the President's National Commission on Neighborhoods as well as the Task Panel on Community Support Systems of the President's Commission on Mental Health.

From 1965 to 1969 Naparstek was associate director of Purdue University's Urban Development Institute. For two years he was the Gary, Ind., mayor's principal deputy for community and economic development, then spent four years as director of policy research at Catholic University's National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. He was the director of the Washington, D.C. Public Affairs Center for the University of Southern California before starting at Case Western.

Naparstek has a master's degree in social work from New York University and a doctorate from the Florence Heller School of Advanced Studies at Brandeis. He is the co-author of two books and has written more than 100 articles and monographs for a variety of publications, professional journals and textbooks.

Back in 1972, when 1968 Illinois Wesleyan graduate Daniel Bassill was an advertising executive at Montgomery Ward in Chicago, he volunteered to tutor one fourth-grader living in a housing project. His life hasn't been the same since.

Soon he'd volunteered to head a tutoring program at work, managing hundreds of volunteers and students in the Cabrini-Green Tutoring Program, Inc., from 1975 to 1992 as part of the retailer's volunteer effort.

In 1992, Bassill formed Cabrini Connections, a nonprofit group to help hundreds of other groups

**Daniel F.  
Bassill**

connect with children in other neighborhoods. Cabrini Connections not only connects kids with mentors, it also runs motivation programs, organizes field trips to colleges and businesses, enlists corporations, hosts conferences at which tutor/mentor programs can share information, publishes newsletters and directories, stages mentor recruiting fairs, and runs a library of information on tutoring.

A component of Cabrini Connections, the Tutor/Mentor Connection, was cited as an example of "innovative community building" in the 1999-2000 Illinois Kids Count report published by Voices for Illinois Children and, in less than nine years, Cabrini Connections has become highly visible in the Chicago area and Bassill has been recognized with numerous awards and stories in print, radio, and television.