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IWU Announces New Staff Members

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --Illinois Wesleyan University announces three new full-time staff positions for the 2001-2002 school year. Connie Horton, effective August 1, 2001, has been named director of counseling and consultation services; Matthew Damschroder has been named director of residential life; and effective June 1, 2001, Kevin Clark, former IWU residence hall director, has been named director of student activities.

Connie Horton, director of counseling and consultation services

Horton holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin and joins the university most recently after serving 10 years as a tenured faculty member in the department of psychology at Illinois State University. Horton's new responsibilities include supervising a staff of seven part-time counselors, developing programs for students, overseeing the university's efforts in alcohol education and supporting faculty and students through a number of additional efforts.

While a professor at Illinois State University, Horton also served as a contractual psychologist at IWU. While under contract with the university, Horton served as a guest lecturer, provided student workshops and offered consultation to faculty and administration. In the past she has also provided consultation, in-service training and treatment provisions for the Baby Fold clinic in Bloomington, which specializes in residential, educational, and therapeutic services for young children.

Horton earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Pepperdine University (Calif.) in 1982, a master of science degree in counseling from California State University in 1986 and doctor of philosophy in educational psychology from the University of Texas in 1991. She also is a member of the American Psychological Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the International Professional Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the National Adolescent Perpetration Network.

Horton has contributed to over 15 research articles, over 40 presentations, received numerous grants and is writing her first book, which addresses child abuse and parental neglect.

Matthew Damschroder, director of residential life

Damschroder came to IWU in 1998 as the director of small halls on campus and was thereafter promoted to assistant director of residential life. Damschroder graduated from Drake University (Iowa) in 1996 with bachelor of arts degrees in English and philosophy.

Prior to coming to IWU, Damschroder worked with several other universities in the office of residential life. He has served as area coordinator, hall director and assistant director of summer conferences at Wittenberg University, and as a community and resident assistant at Drake University.

Throughout his terms within various residential life programs, Damschroder has presented several presentations designed to introduce incoming students to the university experience. He has addressed topics such as the role of parents in the life of a college student, AIDS, the influence of the Internet on society, housing implications for the transgendered student and recovering from sexual assault.

Damschroder is a member of the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers (GLACUHO) and the Association of College Personnel Administrators (ACPA).

Kevin Clark, director of student activities

Clark began at IWU in August of 1999 as a residence hall director. In addition to his residence hall responsibilities, Clark developed the Funny Bone Comedy Club, an ongoing series that brings comedians to campus, and the Underground Performing Arts Series, which has introduced the IWU community to people of "unusual" or largely undiscovered talents. Clark also has been active in the scheduling, contracting and promoting events on campus. As the director of student activities, Clark will be responsible for similar duties as well as serve as a liaison for all student organizations. He will be one of the first to take office within the new Hansen Student Center, scheduled to open in January of 2001.

Clark earned a bachelor of arts degree in communications from the University of South Florida in 1999, and currently pursues a master of science in education degree in college student personal administration from Illinois State University. At IWU, Clark is an advisor to the Titan Pride Club, a student fan organization for athletic events; a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary; and a volunteer for the Bloomington/Normal Habitat for Humanity.

Clark also serves as a speaker and presenter for NK Creative Innovations, a company that teaches entrepreneurial skills, delivering motivational and educational keynote speeches, presenting team-building seminars, and planning leadership development-based conferences.

Clark has attended several conferences including the Association of College Unions International (ACUI), the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) and the Midwest Meeting of Graduate Students in Student Personnel (MMOGSISP).