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Jan. 12th Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Illinois Wesleyan's Hansen Student Center Scheduled for Dedication

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The dedication of Illinois Wesleyan University's new Hansen Student Center located at 300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington, will be dedicated on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 1 p.m.

The gymnasium has been renewed into a \$8-million dollar facility spearheaded by a \$4-million gift from Tom O. Hansen and his family. Hansen is a 1982 IWU business administration graduate and chief executive officer of Kentucky-based ACCENT Marketing Services.

The dedication will take place on the main floor of the student center in the former Memorial Gymnasium, an IWU landmark for more than 80 years. The gymnasium was constructed in 1921-22 in memory of Illinois Wesleyan students who lost their lives in World War I. The building has served as a dance studio and storage for seven years since the activities it accommodated were shifted to the Shirk Center, which opened in 1994 for athletics and recreation.

IWU President Minor Myers, jr., will lead the opening day events with a welcome to the IWU community. There will be a color guard of IWU ROTC students in recognition of war veterans who served in all services and Taps will be played by Brett Dean class of 2003, a music education major from Beecher, Ill.

Also on the program will be Bloomington Mayor Judy Markowitz, Mark Sheldon, class of 1970, president of IWU's Alumni Association and a member of the Board of Trustees, Student Senate President Greg Adamo, class of 2002, and Jim Matthews, IWU dean of students.

IWU Chaplain Dennis Groh will lead the dedication prayer and Hansen and his family will perform the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Matthews will deliver closing remarks and music will be provided by "Active Ingredient," a student jazz-combo group.

At 2 p.m. there will be an open house and various events are slated throughout the building for the remainder of the afternoon. The Lady Titans will play North Central at the Shirk Center at 2 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m., the men's basketball team will go up against North Park at the Shirk Center.

About the Hansen Student Center

The 33,000-gross-square-foot building is designed to meet the social, recreational, and education needs of Illinois Wesleyan students, who have been instrumental in the planning of the facility.

It features a two-story bookstore, café, grille, information center, offices for student government and other student organizations, conference rooms, newsstand, and an outdoor patio. The modern interior with a semi-circular mezzanine, is blanketed in vibrant colors, rich wood, (steel) (metal) and decorated with contemporary furniture.

On the main level of the center are a lobby, an information desk, newsstand, café, and a large, student "hang-out" space with pillars of light. This area has a flexible design with lounge-style seating and moveable furniture, which can easily be recomposed for meetings, guest lecturers, festivals, concerts and dances.

The upper level provides student organizations, meeting rooms, workspace mailboxes, storage areas, and access to computers, printers, and desktop publishing. There are e-mail stations in the center and on the lower level, there is a grille, recreational facilities, and another lounge area.