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Identity, Culture, and Self: African Students at Illinois Wesleyan University

Catherine Bayles, '11
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Poster Presentation P3

**IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND SELF:
AFRICAN STUDENTS AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

Catherine Bayles and Rebecca Gearhart*
Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This poster presentation aspires to facilitate discussion pertaining to topics significant to the African student body at IWU. Through the use of photography and collaborative ethnographic methods, African students have determined that they share a dual-identity that influences how they view their heritage and connect to their communities and the world. Upon reflection of the photographs taken during the ethnographer's participant-observation of significant activities, African students have revealed cultural universals that they share including the clash with how society views them and how they view themselves. The research highlights the connections they share as Africans: respect, a connection to the past, and dignity in a set of values that is internalized by each member through personal interests including their participation in the African Students Association and intramural soccer, and their love for African music. A universal feeling expressed through the poster presentation is the students' desire to balance African and American cultural influences while effectively representing themselves as members of the African community.