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Homecoming and All That Jazz

Aug. 26, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — It will be a weekend of music, memories, fireworks, football and tributes as alumni and friends gather for Illinois Wesleyan University's Homecoming Oct. 8-10, with a theme of *Homecoming and All That Jazz*.

Highlights of Homecoming weekend activities include two 40th anniversary celebrations. The IWU Jazz Program will celebrate four decades with the [Jazz Band Reunion concert](#) on Friday, Oct. 8, comprised of four bands of alumni spanning the four decades. The concert will take place at 9 p.m. in Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington), and will be led by Professor Tom Streeter, who founded the Jazz Program at IWU in 1970, and plans to retire at the end of the academic year. Dancing is encouraged.

The [Mark Evans Observatory](#) will also celebrate 40 years on campus with tours of the observatory from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, with a reception from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Commons of the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (CNS) (201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington), honoring University Professors Ray Wilson and Lew Detweiler.

Also celebrating an anniversary will be the [Hispanic Studies Program](#), founded in the 1999-2000 school year. There will be a reception for alumni, current and former faculty, and friends from 4:30-6 p.m. Saturday at the Joslin Atrium in the Memorial Center (104 E. University St., Bloomington). Other events throughout the weekend will include:

Friday, October 8

Back to College Classes — A variety of alumni, faculty and staff will present lectures on Friday and Saturday afternoon. A 1970 Illinois Wesleyan graduate, Mark Sheldon, will present "China's Rise: Reflections on 30 years in Asia" at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, in Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington). Sheldon, who resided for more than three decades in Taiwan, the Philippines, the Peoples' Republic of China and Hong Kong, will reflect on the rise of China through his work in the fields of international education, Chinese studies, academic exchange and philanthropy.

Titanium — The third annual "Titanium — IWU's Biggest Pep Rally Ever" will be at Wilder Field starting at 6 p.m. on Friday night, featuring a Blues Brothers tribute act, *Soul Men*, which will celebrate the 30th anniversary of *The Blues Brothers* movie. Titanium will conclude with a display of fireworks at Wilder Field. There event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, October 9

Washington correspondent to speak — Washington correspondent and member of the White House press corps Kerry Eleveld of *The Advocate* will speak at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Minor Myers jr. Welcome Center. Eleveld, who has worked in media for more than a decade, is the winner of the 2010 *Sarah Pettit* Memorial Award for Excellence in LGBT Media from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalist Association. Immediately following her talk, she will join a panel with Illinois Wesleyan's Professor of English Jim Plath and Chair of the Political Science Department Jim Simeone. The event is sponsored by the IWU Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, IWU Pride Alumni Community, the IWU Pride Alliance and the Illinois Wesleyan Political Science Department.

Family Fun on the Quad — Boasted as an event for "kids from 2 to 102," the Robert S. Eckley Quadrangle will be host to activities for all ages on Saturday, from 8:30-11:30 a.m., featuring the IWU Pep Band and the IWU Mini-Museum Tent, highlighting more than 160 years of IWU history.

Ryan A. Beaupre '95 Run/Walk — Named in honor of the IWU alumnus who was the first Illinois soldier killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the fund-raising run will commence at 9 a.m. Saturday at Wilder Field. Registration for the run is due by Sept. 27. [Register online](#) or call (309) 556-3251.

Celebrate Nursing, Celebrate Gold — The 50th anniversary of the awarding of bachelor's of science in nursing degrees continues with the awarding of the [School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award](#) to Karen Kopan at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Commons of the Center for Natural Sciences. Kopan will make a presentation after the award is announced.

Annual Homecoming Lunch — The annual luncheon will be held Saturday at noon in the Shirk Center (302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington) to honor [outstanding alumni](#) Ron Ford, Rod Adams and Jerry Philpott.

Football Game — The Illinois Wesleyan University Titans take on North Park University at 2 p.m. Saturday at Wilder Field at The Illinois Wesleyan University Stadium. For ticket information, go to the IWU Sports website at www.iwusports.com.

Sunday, October 10

Homecoming events will wrap up Sunday, Oct. 10, with a 10 a.m. all-campus chapel service at Evelyn Chapel (1301 N. Park St., Bloomington), featuring a reunion performance of the IWU Co-Choir, directed by Professor of Music Scott Ferguson.

For additional information on Homecoming activities, visit the [Titan Pride website](#), or call the Alumni Office at (309) 556-3251.

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