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Reunion Jazz Band Kicks Off 40th Anniversary Celebration

September 7, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The [2010 Homecoming](#) at Illinois Wesleyan University is called Homecoming and All That Jazz for a reason. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Illinois Wesleyan [School of Music's](#) Jazz Program, and part of the events will include the kickoff of the 2010-2011 tribute to the program in honor of the man who founded it, Professor Tom Streeter. This year marks a double celebration as Streeter, who founded the Jazz Program at IWU in 1971, plans to retire at the end of the academic year.

Celebrations will begin with a Jazz Bands Reunion concert on Friday, Oct. 8 at 9 p.m. in Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington), led by Professor of Music Tom Streeter. “We’ll have four bands, with former students from each of the four decades performing. Dancing is definitely encouraged,” said Streeter.

Joining the 2000-2010 reunion band will be Illinois Wesleyan alumnus Brett Dean. A 2003 graduate, Dean said his memories of Streeter compelled him to return for Homecoming. “While performing in the jazz ensembles was a totally enriching experience where lasting memories were made, many of us are attending not because we wish to relive any specific memory, but because we regard Dr. Streeter so highly and we are excited to see him celebrate this milestone,” said Dean, who is the music director of the Shout Section Big Band in Chicago and the band director at Wredling Middle School in St. Charles, Ill.

Other activities in celebration of Streeter and the Jazz Program will include a special performance at the annual Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival in January, an extended tour of the IWU Jazz Ensemble in New York City and Boston in March; a performance by Charles Vernon of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a special all-trombone concert – including as many as 75 trombone-playing alumni – in April.

For further information on the anniversary celebration, contact the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music at (309) 556-3061.

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