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IWU Alumna Named One of America's Most Daring Young Black Activists

Jessica Hinterlong '11
Illinois Wesleyan University

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IWU Alumna Named One of America's Most Daring Young Black Activists

April 13, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan alumna Charlene Carruthers '07, was recently named one of **America's 10 Most Daring Young Black Activists** by CampusProgress.org.

According to their website, Campus Progress is a national organization that works with and for young people to promote progressive solutions to key political and social challenges. The organization engages a diverse group of young people nationwide and attempts to inspire them to embrace their progressive values.

The Chicago native, who graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with dual degrees in international studies and history, was selected for the award for her efforts in Haiti after the devastating earthquake last August and for her political and social activism in her blog and twitter accounts. These accounts, she says, “document her individual journey to freedom and focus on issues affecting youth, women and people belonging in the African Diaspora.”

Although today Carruthers is an avid activist for political and social change in her professional and personal life, she explains that this hasn't always been the case.

“My first activism experiences took place at IWU,” said Carruthers who was a member of the Black Student Union, Inter-cultural Leadership Alliance and the Student Senate at Illinois Wesleyan. “A May Term trip to South Africa was a major catalyst into my life in activism. My dedication to speaking and organizing around issues affecting black communities is grounded in where I come from and the opportunities I had at IWU.”

Carruthers hopes to continue her activist efforts in law school, where she will focus on juvenile justice.

Contact: Jessica Hinterlong '11, (309) 556-3181