



10-2-2003

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### Recommended Citation

Wetherille, Erin, "Darryn W. Dunbar to Receive IWU Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing" (2003). *News and Events*. 4296.  
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## Darryn W. Dunbar to Receive IWU Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing

Oct. 2, 2003

Darryn W. Dunbar, RNC, APN/CNM, MS, Class of 1990, will receive the Illinois Wesleyan University Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing as a part of Homecoming activities at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the IWU School of Nursing BSN and alumni achievements.

IWU nursing faculty will present the award to Dunbar on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m. in the Beckman Lecture Hall of the Center for Natural Science (CNS) C102. A brunch will precede the event in the CNS atrium beginning at 9 a.m.

After the presentation of the award, Dunbar will speak on "Empowerment." He selected this topic because the Illinois Wesleyan Nursing faculty "empowered me, and I have taken that and applied it to my career. Now, as a nurse/midwife, I try to empower women," said Dunbar.

At the celebration, Dr. Donna Hartweg, the Caroline F. Rupert Professor of Nursing and director of the School of Nursing, will speak on the history of the IWU BSN Program. Also, Delores Helsley-Ascher, IWU and Brokaw School of Nursing, Class of 1953, will be presented with a Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing include Peg Sauder, Class of 1978, a pediatric nurse practitioner and professor, and Barbara Nathan, Class of 1980, an executive director of the BroMenn/St. Joseph collaborative Cancer Center in Bloomington-Normal.

Dunbar, originally from Peoria, who now lives in Joliet, is a senior staff nurse/midwife for the Norwegian American Hospital in Chicago. His patients are mostly low-income expecting mothers, who are referred to the hospital through various governmental agencies. He also is a community trustee on the Board of Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet and is a member of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN).

Dunbar, who was featured in the Spring 2003 edition of the Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine, has held many positions in the past at the American College of Nurse-Midwives; currently he is the secretary for the Service Directors Network and contributes to publishing its journal. In addition to nursing, he spends his time as president of the board at the Joliet Montessori School and is an elder and a deacon for his church.

"My favorite part of my career is attending the birth of a baby, because it is such an important life event," said Dunbar.

Hartweg said that the selection committee was impressed with Dunbar's "professional experience and role as a trailblazer in nurse midwifery in the state of Illinois."

"I was very honored that the committee selected me. Although I have been out of nursing school for 13 years, I still feel that I am fairly young in my career and have much more to contribute," said Dunbar.

For more information on the award presentation and anniversary celebration, please contact the Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing at (309) 556-3051.

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