



Spring 5-22-2008

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Recommended Citation

Wallace, Sherry, "Illinois Wesleyan Announces New Board Members" (2008). *News and Events*. 4635.

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May 22, 2008

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Illinois Wesleyan Announces New Board Members

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Board of Trustees elected two new trustees for three-year terms at its May 12-13 meeting on campus. Dale H. Spiess, class of '66 and, from the IWU Alumni Association, John S. Esch, class of '79.

Spiess had a 42-year career in the chemicals industry, with a focus on sales and marketing, business development and management. After his graduation with a biology degree from Illinois Wesleyan, he joined Uniroyal Chemical and later worked for ARCO and Millennium Chemical.

In 1998, Spiess joined NOVA Chemical Corporation and was named Senior Vice President and President- Olefins/Polyolefins Division in 2001. He retired in 2006. For almost eight years, Spiess and his wife Carol, class of '66, were involved in the IWU alumni class agent program, and two of their children attended the University.

Since 1987, Esch has been a general and vascular surgeon in Bloomington/Normal. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Illinois Wesleyan and his doctor of medicine degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 1982. Throughout his career his positions have included chief of staff and chief of surgery at OSF St. Joseph Medical center and chief of surgery at BroMenn Healthcare in Normal. Esch and his wife Cindy have chaired the McLean County Leadership Giving Council since 2002 and served as volunteers for previous campaigns and phonathons. Two of their sons currently attend the University, and another son is a 2007 alum.

In other trustees elections, Board officers re-elected for 2008-2009 are: president, George A. Vinyard, class of '71, of Chicago; first vice president, Gilbert L. Dorsey, class of '62, of Bloomington; second vice president, Herbert A. Getz, class of '77, of Naperville, Ill.; secretary, Susan D. Waring of Bloomington, and treasurer, Robert E. Field, class of '67 of Chicago.

The Board granted emeritus status to Roger S. Joslin, who served as a trustee for nine years. Joslin, who joined State Farm in 1964, serves as vice chairman of State Farm Mutual in Bloomington. He was appointed to the position in 1998. He began his career at State Farm as an assistant vice president, with later appointments as vice president in the president's office and treasurer. In 1987, he became senior vice president of State Farm Mutual and was elected chairman of State Farm Fire and Casualty. He and his wife Stephanie reside in Bloomington.

In addition, trustees re-elected for a three-year term at this meeting are: Richard D. Ames of Cleveland, Ohio; Patricia M. Armstrong, class of '70, of San Francisco; Phyllis Barker, class of '73, of Chicago; Thomas L. Brown, class of '79, of Chicago; Robert E. Field, class of '67, of Chicago; Dr. David Gaffron, of Bloomington; Dr. Thomas C. McKinney, Jr., class of '76, of Chesterfield, Mo.; Dr. Ronald L. Ruecker, class of '66, of Decatur; James A. Shirk, of Bloomington; Carlina Tapia-Ruano, class of '77, of Chicago, and Susan D. Waring, of Bloomington.

The Board of Trustees at Illinois Wesleyan consists of 41 members, four honorary members and 27 emeritus trustees.