



Fall 11-4-2008

It's Election Day

Teresa A. Sherman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Sherman, Teresa A., "It's Election Day" (2008). *News and Events*. 4689.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/4689>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

November 4, 2008

Contact: Teresa Sherman '09, (309) 556-3181

It's Election Day

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - All eyes are on the polls today as Illinois Wesleyan University students, faculty and staff join the rest of the world in anxiously awaiting the results of the 2008 election. A collection of campaign memorabilia dating back to 1904, which is on display in The Ames Library rotunda (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington), offers a reminder to campus that win or lose, political campaigns are historic in their own right.

More than 100 buttons, ticket stubs and other campaign items make up the display, from a time when holographic imaging was the latest technology. Campaign buttons span the last 25 presidential contests, documenting the unsuccessful - Barry Goldwater '64, the Rev. Jesse Jackson '88 - and the victorious - Clinton-Gore '92, Bush-Cheney '00 - in equal measure.

The collection belongs to Steve Peterson, a member of Illinois Wesleyan's Physical Plant staff and self-proclaimed "political junkie." Peterson, who spent 18 years as a political commentator on a local radio station, inherited the first pieces from his grandmother but said the advent of eBay has made his collection balloon to more than 300 items.

"I used to pick up these things one at a time. I'd go into an antique store in New Orleans, and I might spend 80 dollars on an inauguration press pass," said Peterson. "Some collectors pay thousands of dollars for a spoon used by Andrew Jackson," but Peterson likes his postcard from former President Theodore Roosevelt just fine.

In the display case, a letter to Peterson's grandfather from the former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's wife explaining where he can find an FDR campaign button frames the button itself. A Jimmy Carter pocketknife reading "Mr. Peanut for President" under a Confederate flag sits opposite a button picturing Peterson standing beside cardboard cutouts of Michael Dukakis, the Democratic candidate for President in 1988, and Jesse Jackson at the '88 Democratic Convention.

Like everyone else, Peterson has a candidate he would prefer to see elected today, but that is not the only reason he is looking forward to Nov. 5. "After the election is the best time to

buy," he said. Each candidate having spent millions on campaign paraphernalia, Peterson is sure to find plenty to add to his collection.

-30-