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Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing to Present Special Lifetime Achievement Award

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University School of Nursing will honor Deloris Helsley-Ascher, of the former Brokaw Hospital School of Nursing with a Special Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of contribution to the School of Nursing (SON).

A special reception will be held in her honor at a program on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10-11 a.m. in the Beckman Lecture Hall, Center for Natural Science (C102). Also during the program, a Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice, Education and Research will be presented to Darryn W. Dunbar, Class of 1990.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the IWU School of Nursing, there will be a brunch preceding the program, from 9-10 a.m. in the Atrium of the Center for Natural Science.

In 1951, Helsley-Ascher, who is originally from LaSalle, Ill., received the Rupert Award for outstanding nurse in the Class of 1953. After graduation, she completed her graduate work in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Chicago Lying-In Hospital in 1954, where she worked as Head Nurse in obstetrics until moving to California, where she continued her nursing career until she married and began a family. She now resides in La Quinta, Calif.

Helsley-Ascher's contributions to the SON began in 1994 when she established the Deloris Helsley-Ascher Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to students pursuing a career in the field of nursing. Most recently, she challenged IWU alums with a gift of \$25,000 to help the SON purchase SimMan, a \$50,000 computerized, simulated manikin on which students, in a safe laboratory environment, can practice nursing techniques and manage critically ill situations.

The BroMenn Service Auxiliary members also contributed to the purchase of SimMan.

It was the financial help of an aunt that enabled Helsley-Ascher to attend the Brokaw School of Nursing, which was affiliated with Illinois Wesleyan University, and it is because of her appreciation of this gift that Helsley-Ascher helps other nursing students fulfill their academic education.

"Nursing is very important to me," said Helsley-Ascher, "and I have loved the profession and desire to do whatever I can to help the University continue with its program of excellence in the field of nursing."