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## IWU Adds Seven to Faculty for 2004-05 Academic Year

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## IWU Adds Seven to Faculty for 2004-05 Academic Year

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Seven new faculty members have been added to tenure track positions at Illinois Wesleyan University for the 2004-05 academic year, while seven more have joined the faculty as visiting professors.

The new tenure-track faculty are:

■ **Kira Hudson Banks** – Assistant professor of psychology. Banks has a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and earned her master's and doctorate from the University of Michigan. She has done research in the areas of gender, ethnicity, and feminism and her work includes a study on the effects on high school-age mothers of a program of Temporary Aid to Needy Families. Her doctoral dissertation was a study aimed at understanding the effects of perceived discrimination on African-American students and the manner in which racial identity moderates that relationship. Banks has also participated in a number of programs that promote improved interethnic relations and encourage students, especially disadvantaged and minority students, to continue their studies to the highest possible level. She has also worked as a clinical psychologist in both the Psychological Clinic and the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of Michigan.

■ **Seung-Hwan Lee** – Assistant professor of mathematics. Lee earned his bachelor's and first master's degree in mathematics at Chung-Ang University in Seoul, Korea, before coming to the United States to earn a second master's degree in statistics at Texas A&M University. He then entered Texas Tech to pursue the doctorate in math with a concentration in statistics. Lee's recent research has focused on statistical tests based on Martingale Residuals, statistical calculations used to investigate the lack of fit of a model to a given subject. He has taught courses in statistical methods, trigonometry, and algebra at Texas Tech.

■ **Leah A. Nillas** – Instructor of educational studies. For a year after completing her bachelor's degree at Roosevelt College Foundation Center for Teacher Education, Philippines, Nillas taught high school algebra and pre-calculus, along with adult-education mathematics in the evenings in the Philippines. She then entered the University of the Philippines to earn her master's, after which she became an assistant professor in the University of the Philippines Open University. In 2001, Nillas came to the U.S., enrolling at Illinois State University where she is completing a doctorate in mathematics education. Her research on uses of online discussion as a teaching tool and on problem-solving strategies that pre-service teachers

Four who were faculty members last year in a visiting role have been added as tenure-track faculty appointments. They are:

■ **Stephanie Davis-Kahl** – Assistant professor, library. With a bachelor's degree in East Asian studies from Oberlin College and a master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Davis-Kahl joined the IWU library faculty last winter as a visiting information services librarian. Prior to coming to central Illinois, Davis-Kahl worked as a research librarian in several positions at the University of Southern California and at University of California, Irvine. Davis-Kahl has authored a number of scholarly works, given presentations at professional meetings, and been involved in activities of the Association of College and Research Libraries (within the American Library Association), the California Association of Research Libraries, and the Council on Social Work Education Librarians Interest Group.

■ **Michelle Ernst** - Assistant professor of psychology. A visiting assistant professor of psychology last year, Ernst earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and her master's and doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She finished her doctoral degree in clinical psychology in 2001 while nearly simultaneously finishing an American Psychological Association-accredited internship in Child Clinical and Pediatric Psychology at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. Her research interests include the study of osteoporosis-related attitudes, knowledge and behaviors of mothers of girls and the study of behavioral intervention in the prevention and treatment of childhood obesity. She has been a co-instructor in health psychology at SUNY-Buffalo and co-taught abnormal psychology at Illinois Wesleyan in 2001. Since October 2001, she has worked as a family support specialist at The Baby Fold in Normal.

■ **Venus Evans-Winters** – Assistant professor of educational studies. Evans-Winters was an adjunct instructor at IWU last year and also has worked as an adjunct faculty member at Illinois Central College and Saint Xavier University. She has earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, completing her doctorate in educational policy studies/sociology of education in 2003. Her research has focused on the interactions of race, class, and gender in both educational settings and in the larger community outside the classroom, culminating in her doctoral dissertation entitled "Reconstructing Resilience: Including African-American Female Students in Educational Resiliency Research." Evans-Winters has worked as a facilitator for the self-esteem and assertiveness group for women in transition, and as a HIV/AIDS peer educator for African-American women and adolescents. She has served as a professional consultant at Peoria's African-American Museum and at the Peoria Public Library.

■ **Stephen Press** - Assistant professor of music. Press, a visiting assistant professor of music last year, earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in 1971 at the University of Southern California. He worked as an air traffic controller in San Juan, Puerto Rico and in Chicago, and won an award for excellence in "providing on-the-job training" to less senior air traffic controllers in the Great Lakes region. In the mid-1980's, Press earned a bachelor's degree in music history and a master's in musicology at Illinois State before gaining a doctorate in musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Asian History, Chinese History, the history of the Vietnam Wars, and the history of Japan. She has lectured on "China's Economic Transformation, 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Century", "Kang Youwei and the Reform Movement of 1898", "The History of Sui and Tang", and "Mao in the Wilderness."