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November 3, 2010

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New Endowed Professorship Announced, Goodwill Ambassador Named for *Transforming Lives* Campaign

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University announced a new endowed professorship, and the addition of a Goodwill Ambassador recently at the annual Trustees Dinner as a part of *Transforming Lives: The Campaign for Illinois Wesleyan University*.

Robert W. Harrington Professorship

Robert Harrington, former chair of the Business and Economics Department and emeritus professor at Illinois Wesleyan, is establishing a new endowed professorship. Endowed professorships celebrate the combined talents of professors who excel in instructional and scholarly activity, and support their efforts to bring research into the classroom.

“I decided to come work at Illinois Wesleyan because I saw the potential in the faculty members,” said Harrington. “I know this professorship will recognize faculty who distinguish themselves as teachers and scholars.”

Before coming to Illinois Wesleyan, Harrington taught at Wisconsin State University in Superior and Indiana State University. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the Illinois State University, and a master’s degree and doctorate from the State University of Iowa.

Harrington, who served on the University faculty from 1968 to 1989, understands the importance of endowed professorships. Coming to IWU the same year President Robert S. Eckley became the University’s president, Harrington had the honor of being named the inaugural recipient of the University’s Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics in 1986. It was the same year Harrington created a trust for the University, and his support for Illinois Wesleyan has continued throughout the years.

His professorship will be the sixth established under the *Transforming Lives* campaign. Building new endowed professorships is a goal of Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs Chuck and Jay Ames, who challenged University friends and alumni to create 10 new professorships.

Armstrong Named Goodwill Ambassador

Flora Harris Armstrong, a member of the class of 1941, has been tapped by University President Richard F. Wilson to become the Goodwill Ambassador for the *Transforming Lives*

campaign. Armstrong, who has a long history of supporting the University, will personally express thanks to alumni and friends who contribute to the campaign.

“It’s important to be there for others, and just as important to say thank you,” said Armstrong, who resides in Bloomington and was a former host for a local radio station. “It’s part belonging to something. And we belong to Illinois Wesleyan.”

Armstrong grew up in Colfax, Ill. “Though we were very poor, my father insisted I have an education, and insisted that education be at Illinois Wesleyan,” she said. “Life greatly improved with the doors my education opened.” She married Victor Armstrong in 1941. “We were so dedicated to the University,” said Armstrong of she and her husband, who died in 2008. The couple donated the bell that now rings in Eckley Chapel, and founded an alumni connection when they lived in Phoenix. “We started with 13 people meeting at my house,” she said of the group that now boasts hundreds of members who attend the Phoenix Connection.

An emeritus member of the University’s Board of Trustees, Armstrong helped to raise money for the University’s Fort Natatorium swimming complex, and was a member of the last capital campaign in the 1990s. That dedication has continued through two of her three children who are Illinois Wesleyan graduates --Victor Armstrong ’64 and Brian Armstrong ’65. Two of her eight grandchildren also attended Illinois Wesleyan -- B.J. Armstrong ’93 and Tom Armstrong ’89. “Tom will be helping out as an ambassador as well,” said Armstrong.

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