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## International Olympic Committee Leader to Speak at IWU, Sept. 11

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Sept. 5, 1996

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Locals  
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## **International Olympic Committee Leader to Speak at IWU, Sept. 11**

***Anita DeFrantz Rated Among 100  
Most Powerful Woman in Sports by "The Sporting News"***

*"Sports belong to all of us--able-bodied, disabled,  
men, women, young, and old."*

--Anita DeFrantz  
International Olympic Committee  
Quoted in *The Indianapolis Star/News*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--She's been called one of the most powerful women in sports. One magazine ranked her among the world's 100 most powerful women.

International Olympic Committee member Anita DeFrantz--the only woman on the 11-member Executive Board, the seat of Olympic power and clout, and the first black woman elected to the group--will deliver the keynote address at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Convocation, Sept. 11.

DeFrantz, a bronze medalist in rowing at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the Convocation.

The President's Convocation--a campuswide gathering of students, faculty, and administrators marking the start of the 1996-97 school year--will kickoff at 11 a.m. in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University St., Bloomington. The Convocation is open to the public, free-of-charge.

"We are pleased to honor Anita DeFrantz today for all she has done for the international Olympic movement and amateur athletics," said IWU President Minor Myers, jr. "She was an important part of the team that brought the Olympics to Atlanta this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the modern games. She also played a key role in securing Salt Lake City as the site for the winter games in 2002. But, more importantly, she is an extraordinary role model for millions of young women--particularly black women--across the country. Her success as an athlete has been matched--or exceeded--by her success as an attorney and a steward of the Olympic movement."

During DeFrantz' visit, she is expected to meet with students and faculty involved in women's sports, women's studies, and women's politics.

(more)

## **DeFrantz to Speak at IWU/2**

DeFrantz, an attorney and bronze medalist in rowing at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, has been called one of the 100 most powerful people in sports by *The Sporting News*. *The Australian Magazine*, this year, listed her among the 100 most powerful women worldwide. The list included the likes of Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto, First Lady Hillary Clinton, U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and talk show host Oprah Winfrey.

As a vice president for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, she organized and managed the Olympic Village at the University of Southern California for the 1984 games.

DeFrantz was elected to the 104-member International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1986; her term of office runs to 2032. She was elected to the IOC's Executive Board in 1992 and re-elected to a full four-year term in 1993. DeFrantz chairs the IOC's Women and Sport Working Group and serves on several other IOC commissions.

A *Wall Street Journal* profile of her reported: "... DeFrantz has become one of the Olympic movement's more influential members ... she is the only woman on the 11-member IOC Executive Board, the true seat of Olympic power, and the first black woman ever elected to it."

Born in Philadelphia, DeFrantz grew up in Indianapolis. At age 18, she was introduced to rowing at Connecticut College, where she graduated with honors in 1974. While studying law at the University of Pennsylvania, she continued training for rowing competitions. From 1975-80, DeFrantz competed on every national rowing team and served in several posts, including being a director of the U.S. Rowing Association.

In addition to her Olympic bronze medal in rowing, DeFrantz won a silver medal at the 1978 World Championships, was a five-time World Championships finalist, and won six National Championships.

She was an outspoken critic of President Jimmy Carter's boycott of the 1980 Olympics, following the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, earning the IOC's Bronze Medal of the Olympic Order for her leadership in opposing the boycott.

DeFrantz is president of the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, a charity founded with about \$90 million of surplus funds from the Los Angeles Olympics. As of January, 1996, the group had awarded grants totaling \$31.2 million to support youth sports programs in Southern California. Among the foundation's board members are four-time Olympic gold medalist in track and field Evelyn Ashford, former U.S. Rep. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-Calif.), Olympic gold medalist in the decathlon Rafer Johnson, Los Angeles Dodgers President Peter O'Malley,

**(more)**

### DeFrantz to Speak at IWU/3

former Major League Baseball Commissioner and Los Angeles Olympics organizer Peter Ueberroth, and award-winning TV and film producer David L. Wolper.

She is a steward of the Women's Sports Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors for: the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Salt Lake City Olympic Organizing Committee, Martin Luther King Legacy Association, and many other groups.

Among her awards and honors are the NAACP's Jackie Robinson Sports Achievement Award, IOC's Woman of the Year Award, World Scholar-Athlete Games Humanitarian Award from the Institute for International Sport, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Funds' Black Woman of Achievement Award.

*The Indianapolis Star/News* profile of DeFrantz noted her family has been a fixture among Indiana civil-rights activists. DeFrantz' late father was executive director of Community Action Against Poverty and president of the Indianapolis School Board. Her paternal grandfather was a nationally known civil-rights pioneer whose houseguests included historic black figures, such as the scientist George Washington Carver, educator W.E.B. DuBois, and writer Langston Hughes.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.

<b>EDITOR'S NOTE:</b> To arrange for interviews with Anita DeFrantz, call IWU Public Relations-News Services at 309/556-3181. DeFrantz' address is open for news media coverage.
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