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## Former Polo Resident Makes \$12 Million Fund-Raising Challenge For Annual Fund

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*hometown*

## **Former Polo Resident Makes \$12 Million Fund-Raising Challenge For Annual Fund, New Library at Illinois Wesleyan University**

### **Special to the *Tri-County Press***

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A former Polo, Ill., resident has made a \$12 million fund-raising challenge to his alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University.

The challenge is being made by B. Charles Ames, IWU class of 1950, and his wife, Joyce Eichhorn Ames, IWU class of 1949.

Ames is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. Currently, Ames is a senior partner for Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc., an investment firm specializing in management buyouts, located in New York City.

The challenge was announced at IWU's Homecoming festivities, Oct. 10.

The announcement was made by IWU President Minor Myers, jr., at a luncheon attended by more than 800 IWU alumni.

"This challenge," Myers said, "represents the largest financial commitment in the history of Illinois Wesleyan University."

In a statement to IWU alumni, the Ameseses said: "We believe Illinois Wesleyan University has a unique opportunity to rank among the top 40 National Liberal Arts Institutions in the United States within the next few years.

"For this reason," they added, "we are willing to make a substantial commitment of funds if our fellow alumni will join with us to achieve this goal."

IWU ranks No. 50 among 162 liberal arts colleges and universities nationwide in "America's Best Colleges," published annually by *U.S. News & World Report*. IWU also ranks as the 26th most selective national liberal arts college or university in the *U.S. News & World Report* survey.

### **B. Charles Ames' Background**

From 1938 to 1950, B. Charles Ames lived in Polo, Ill. His father, D.F. Ames, owned and operated the Pine Road Milk Co., which is now a funeral home.

Ames graduated from Polo Community High School in 1943. He served a three-year stint in the U.S. Army during World War II.

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## **Ames: Former Polo Resident/2**

When the war ended, Ames attended Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated in 1950. He then married Joyce Eichhorn, an IWU student, from Rockford, Ill.

Ames moved to Boston in 1952, where he received a master in business administration degree from the Harvard Business School in 1954.

He started his business career with McKinsey & Co., a management consulting firm. Ames eventually became a managing director of McKinsey's Cleveland office, where he served for 10 years before becoming directly involved in operating several businesses.

Ames served as chairman and chief executive officer of Reliance Electric Co., Acme-Cleveland Corp., and the Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. He also has been a director for M.A. Hanna Co., Progressive Insurance Co., Warner-Lambert Co., LTV, and Addressograph Multigraph.

Ames and his wife, who is known as Jay, have three children: Paula, Richard, and Cindy, and six grandchildren.

The Amesese have homes in Cleveland, where they live in the summer, Vero Beach, Fla., where they live in the winter, and Santa Fe, N.M., where they spend time, especially in the spring and fall.

### **The \$12 Million Challenge**

The Amesese propose to match--on a dollar-for-dollar basis--all gifts to the Alumni Annual Fund, if IWU alumni contribute a minimum of \$1 million annually for the next three years for a total of \$3 million.

Furthermore, the Amesese propose to match--on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$9 million--all gifts earmarked for IWU's proposed new library, a \$23 million project.

"These gifts," the Amesese said, "will be in addition to our previous \$2 million gift commitment for the School of Art."

The Amesese added: "It is our fervent hope our fellow alumni and friends will share our vision and accept our challenge."

### **Proposed New Library**

The proposed \$23 million library is in the design development, working drawings stage. Construction is dependent upon securing funding.

A library planning document points out: "Illinois Wesleyan University's new library will be the intellectual center of the campus. The library will be the location for meeting, studying, collaborating, consulting, and reflecting.

"At the same time," the paper adds, "the library and its park-like surroundings will provide

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### **Ames: Former Polo Resident/3**

a campus gateway to the community with easy and inviting access to the university."

Groundbreaking for the new library is dependent upon raising construction funds and approval by IWU's Board of Trustees.

The new library is designed as a four-story, 101,000-square foot building, 59,000-square feet larger than Sheean Library for which the current count of 233,347 volumes exceeds capacity. IWU's goal is a collection of 400,000 volumes in the new library. The new library will consolidate into a single location the university's collections, which have been housed in three locations.

"A library of this sort," Myers said, "is critical as the center of what Illinois Wesleyan has become today and what it will be in the future."

#### **About IWU**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.