



Apr 17th, 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Representing African-American Students at IWU: Explorations in Visual Anthropological Methods

Maria Holsen

Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Holsen, Maria and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Representing African-American Students at IWU: Explorations in Visual Anthropological Methods" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 11.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/posters2/11>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P22

**REPRESENTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AT IWU:
EXPLORATIONS IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS**

Maria Holsen and *Rebecca Gearhart

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Illinois Wesleyan University

Using the visual media of photography and collaborative ethnographic research methods, this poster presentation aims to facilitate discussion about issues that are important to the African-American student body at IWU. By examining the photographs taken during the ethnographer's participant-observation of activities commemorating Black History Month, the subjects conclude that they share a common cultural identity of being a minority group on a predominantly white campus. This research highlights the bond shared by African-American students that is cultivated by their rich common history, which they celebrate on and off campus with music and food. A common sentiment subjects convey is the conflict between seeking support among themselves and assimilating with the majority culture.