

The Next Normal:

Educating Post-COVID

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IW Tiger Athletics

'21 Spring Season

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PURPLE & WHITE

IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

50

Years of
Nursing

PG. 9

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61 | 03 | 21



IOWA WESLEYAN
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MISSION

Iowa Wesleyan University is a transformational learning community whose passion is to educate, empower and inspire students to lead meaningful lives and careers.

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61	03	21

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On the Cover: Ariel Smale '20 at the Spring Commencement held on May 1, 2021 in the Ruble Arena. The ceremony for our 2020 graduates was postponed due to the global pandemic. These graduates were invited to join the 2021 graduates to take part in the May 2021 ceremony.

In this Spread: From April to October, the J. Raymond Chadwick Library and the rest of the Iowa Wesleyan University campus is surrounded by vibrant flowers in varying shades of purple.

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President

Christine Plunkett
chris.plunkett@iw.edu

University Provost

Dr. DeWayne Frazier
dewayne.frazier@iw.edu

Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing, and Communications

Meg Richtman
meg.richtman@iw.edu

Dean of Students

Matt Klundt
matt.klundt@iw.edu

Vice President for Advancement and Athletics

Derek Zander
derek.zander@iw.edu

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Courtney Carl
Kendra Hefner
Paige Kammerer
Jen Koch
Justin Noble
Meg Richtman

EDITOR

Meg Richtman

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Jen Koch

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Amy Becker
Courtney Carl
Kendra Hefner

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E-mail marketing@iw.edu



The Next Normal

Education Post-Covid

In March 2020, it became clear that the realm of education was going to shift dramatically. As Iowa Wesleyan University staff and faculty worked tirelessly to adjust and adapt to the rapidly changing environment created by the Coronavirus, they found elements of what would soon become the new normal through the reevaluation of standards for education. IW faculty and staff are continuing to learn and adapt new practices to fit a post-Covid classroom, including increasing access to course materials and providing a more modern approach to education.

To help students cover unexpected expenses associated with college, IW is now including digital copies of class textbooks, available through the course

eCompanion, in student tuition through the “Covered” program. Covered will ensure that all students have access to course textbooks and materials without any unexpected fees. Many IW students are first-generation college students and may not account for expenses beyond student tuition. Covered allows students to budget their finances across semesters as it reduces the inconsistencies of material expenses between courses.

Additionally, IW is upgrading the campus-wide course eCompanion Learning Management System (LMS) to provide students with supplemental online learning resources, online tutoring options, and other tools to promote

student success and engagement. While classes will be returning to a face-to-face format in the Fall ’21 semester, students can expect to continue with some element of the hybrid model created during the pandemic. Dr. Jeffrey Martinek, Professor of English and a fundamental leader in the early months of the pandemic, noted, “I think the LMS as the center of the class, whether remote, hybrid, or traditional face-to-face, is here to stay. I welcome it,

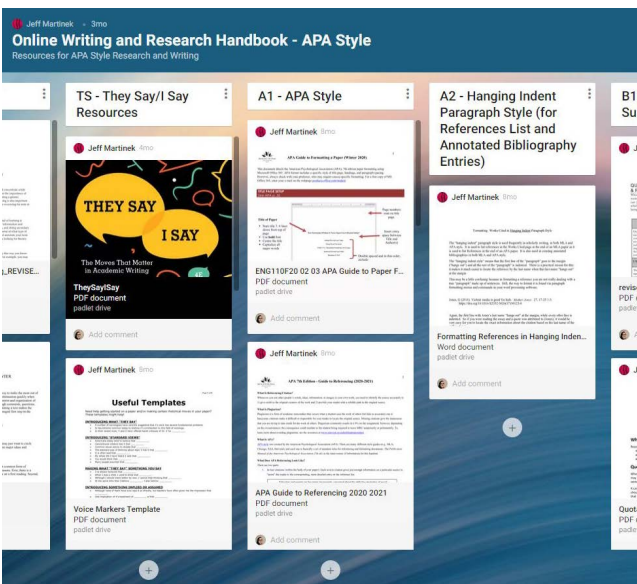
“We need to make classes feel alive and communal, with shared experiences. I think it can happen in new ways that make sense to today’s student and reflects today’s digitally-mediated lifestyles.”

Dr. Jeffrey Martinek, Professor of English

and I think it makes me a better teacher with a different kind of relationship with students.” With the LMS upgrade, many classes will continue to have an online component that may be utilized in and out of the classroom. This also allows students to have greater access to their professors to ask questions or receive feedback on assignments or interact asynchronously with their classmates.

“We need to find a way to rethink what engagement looks like today,” stated Dr. Martinek. Martinek addressed the return to face-to-face classes in the Fall ’21 semester. “We need to make classes feel alive and communal, with shared experiences. I think it can happen in new ways that make sense to today’s student and reflects today’s digitally-mediated lifestyles.” Professors across campus began looking for and implementing ways to engage contemporary students during the Spring ’21 semester.

Many instructors have found the continued use of the Padlet digital interface, an interactive social-media-inspired learning and communication



The Padlet digital interface is an interactive social-media-inspired learning and communication tool. Several IW professors utilize Padlet to encourage class engagement and discussion in an environment that students are familiar with.



tool implemented in the early months of the pandemic, to be useful for class engagement. The format of Padlet allows students to interact informally and asynchronously, just as they would on popular social media platforms; the app allows them to engage in class discussions from anywhere. “It’s also a great way for students to observe and emulate their most successful peers,” notes Dr. Martinek. Several professors have introduced discussion topics in class that can then be transferred and continued within the Padlet online environment.

Dr. DeWayne Frazier, University Provost, added that this digital classroom component helps to “empower students to have more ownership over their education.” While COVID-19 forced most classes to become hybrid or online, IW faculty have worked hard to make classes engaging and more impactful than the average online program.

Professors who have been able to hold face-to-face classes have also been innovative in maintaining classroom engagement. Dr. Frazier emphasized, “We’re constantly looking at the ways that we can improve.” Sarah Sullivan Gomez, Assistant Professor of Human Services, has utilized simulations to teach students about important historical events and topics. Her students are able

to experience major historical events, such as the Salem Witch Trials, through classroom simulations and games.

Other instructors, such as Jennifer Crull, Assistant Professor of Business,

“Students want to feel trusted, empowered, the opportunity to have some ownership in what they do”

Dr. DeWayne Frazier, Provost

gave students hands-on experience. For example, many of her students have experienced product design and development issues through a paper airplane competition in which they were asked to provide instructions on how to create the best paper airplane, which their teammates must then follow.

As Iowa Wesleyan prepares to fully open for the Fall ’21 semester, faculty and staff are continuing to look for new ways to be innovative and engaging, especially for students who have spent the past year adapting to pandemic-style learning. Dr. Frazier expressed particular concern for the sophomore class this fall. “The group that I’m most worried about are those students who didn’t have

a prom, a graduation ceremony last year, and those things that are so important in those formative years. They were told what the college experience is supposed to be, but it is nothing they can prepare for when they get here. They don’t have student activities, and they miss their sports, which for many of them is their social network. There are no sororities, fraternities, clubs, or organizations to engage in the community and develop roots. So we have a whole group of students who have been here for a year, and in a college world, that doesn’t accurately represent what college is.”

In preparation for the next normal, IW is continuously seeking ways to engage students both in and out of the classroom. “The next normal is a world that exists where we’re able to pivot on a moment’s notice because of a pandemic and global issues that we never thought might have happened... a world that tries to engage students in their learning process. It’s not online education; it’s a world of continuous engagement and access you’ve probably never had in history,” added Dr. Frazier. Students will miss less content due to illness or weather complications, while the new traditional classroom encourages greater hands-on learning.

A Growing Alliance

SIHEA Progress Report

On January 12, 2021, Iowa Wesleyan University and Southeastern Community College announced the formation of the Southeast Iowa Higher Education Alliance (SIHEA). While both institutions will continue to operate separately, this unique partnership between a four-year private liberal arts university and a community college is serving as an innovative model for the future of higher education.

Before the ink was dry on the partnership agreement, both institutions went to work to make this vision a reality. In short order, the months-long planning that included creative ways this Alliance could come to life shifted into execution mode. After finalizing the formal partnership documents, all areas of each institution began working together to find ways to collaborate, share expenses, and build a stronger Alliance to serve the students and communities of Southeast Iowa.

On April 8, 2021, the first official Board Meeting of the Southeast Iowa Higher Education Alliance convened. The first order of business was to approve the by-laws that will guide the institutions' work together. The members of the SIHEA Board of Directors include:

Lanny Hillyard (SIHEA Chair, SCC Board of Trustees)
 Dr. Denise Keltner Johnson (SIHEA Vice-Chair, IW Board of Trustees)
 Dr. Michael Ash (SCC President)
 Christine Plunkett (IW President)
 Matthew Shinn (appointed by IW Board of Trustees)
 Joseph Johnson (SCC Board of Trustees)



The SIHEA Board of Directors at their inaugural meeting on April 8, 2021. Left to right: Dr. Denise Keltner Johnson (Vice-Chair), Matthew Shinn, Lanny Hillyard (Chair), Joseph Johnson, Christine Plunkett (IW President), Darcy Burdette (Secretary) Dr. Michael Ash (SCC President and Chancellor of SIHEA). Not pictured, Kevin Carr (CFO).

Kevin Carr (CFO of SCC) was confirmed as CFO of SIHEA, and Darcy Burdette (Senior Executive Assistant to the President, SCC) was appointed SIHEA Secretary.

In the first few months of this new Alliance, significant progress has already been made. Here are a few of the highlights:

- SIHEA has agreed upon its first two shared staff positions, and the first one has been filled. Tina Young, who has served as SCC's Title IX Coordinator, has been appointed to serve as the Director of Title IX and Chief Diversity Officer. She has offices on both campuses and will divide her time as needed. A search for a shared Director of Student Engagement is underway, and we anticipate filling this position this summer. These shared positions will help to unite our campuses and create the sense of a single entity.
- Congressional Partners, a federal grant-writing firm located in Washington D.C., has agreed to enter into a contract with SIHEA.
- Under this contract, Congressional Partners will write grant proposals for IW and SCC individually and joint grants on behalf of SIHEA. SCC has experienced a high rate of success with grants prepared by this firm. The grant writers at Congressional Partners believe that many of IW's attributes align well with what the federal government will focus on over the next few years. These areas of focus include low-income and minority students, first-generation students, and small rural institutions. SIHEA was recently awarded its first joint grant through Congressional Partners. IW's portion of the funding is more than \$65,000, with an institutional match of just \$8.5K required. This grant will equip several rooms on campus with high technology Zoom capabilities for meetings and classes.
- Thanks to the SIHEA partnership, Iowa Wesleyan University was accepted as the first four-year institutional member of ICCOC (the Iowa Community College Online

Consortium). This relatively low-cost membership provides the University with access to more than \$600,000 worth of technology applications and services that will significantly enhance our faculty and student teaching and learning experience. Two of our faculty members participated in the ICCOC Spring Conference, discussing their creative teaching methods during COVID.

- We have finalized our shared scholarship program for SCC students who transfer to IW. Through joint scholarship awards, the partnership can provide a four-year degree to Iowa students at a price that is competitive with Iowa's large public institutions. We also finalized special tuition price plans for online students and community colleges that are part of the ICCOC. The academic and marketing teams at SCC and IW continue to work closely together to design new educational pathways and marketing initiatives to promote our partnership.
- We have also reviewed our first large-scale vendor contract for the possibility of cost-effective shared pricing. For the past five years, Consolidated Management Company has provided Southeastern Community College's food service. Iowa Wesleyan has utilized Sodexo's food services for nearly thirty years. An RFP was extended to Sodexo and Consolidated Management to submit food service proposals to the Alliance. Iowa Wesleyan and SCC each appointed six individuals to serve on a food service committee to review the submissions and complete a due diligence process. The committee unanimously recommended the Alliance proceed with a contract with Consolidated Management Company. Under the new arrangement, Consolidated will provide a dedicated on-site manager and chef at each site, but the overall pricing of the services is based on our combined enrollment. As a

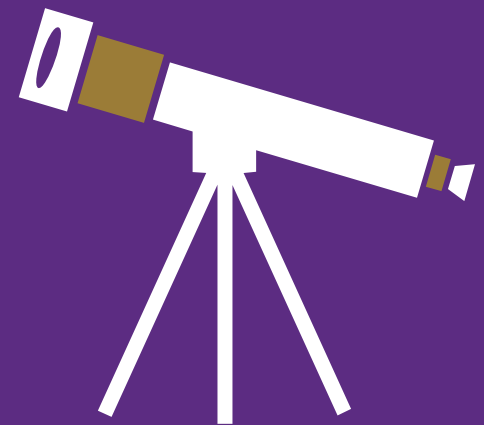
result, the financial savings to Iowa Wesleyan will be nearly \$200,000 annually, and the total savings for IW and SCC combined over five years will approach \$2 million. As our student population has continued to diversify, our students have requested more variety and healthier dining options. We believe that by working with a smaller, regional vendor (Consolidated is based in Des Moines), we will have greater flexibility and the ability to offer more variety for our students.

- The partnership has already garnered some initial national attention. The TIAA Institute and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors prepared a joint white paper report on ways in which small private colleges and universities are facing financial and enrollment challenges. Iowa Wesleyan University was one of four institutions profiled in the report, and the profile included a summary of our innovative SIHEA partnership. In addition, the Registry Advisory Services prepared a dedicated website highlighting the partnership and arranged to link it to the Chronicle of Higher Education's website. Check it out at: <https://sponsored.chronicle.com/Helping-Build-For-A-Brighter-Future>



SIHEA Transfer Benefits for Students

- Alliance Transfer Scholarship
- Academic pathways to a four-year degree
- IW waived enrollment fee
- Priority registration and housing
- Seamless transfer process
- And more!



We Need Your Perspective

Share your feedback and be a voice for the future of Iowa Wesleyan University.

Iowa Wesleyan University is launching a new strategic plan, and we'd love to hear from our alumni and friends (you!) as we undertake this journey.

Please take a few minutes to share your feedback at the link below.

iw.edu/strategic-plan



A Cause for Celebration

Commencement for the Graduates of 2020 & 2021

After a year of uncertainty, Iowa Wesleyan University was able to celebrate a live, in-person graduation ceremony with the classes of 2020 and 2021. On May 1, 2021, graduates and their families gathered in the Ruble Arena for one of two services, divided by academic divisions, to celebrate their incredible accomplishments through and in spite of the unusual circumstances and challenges they've faced.

While graduates were only able to invite two family members each, live streaming options were provided, and both services remain available for viewing on the University YouTube channel.

Congratulations to the graduating classes for making it through this difficult time!

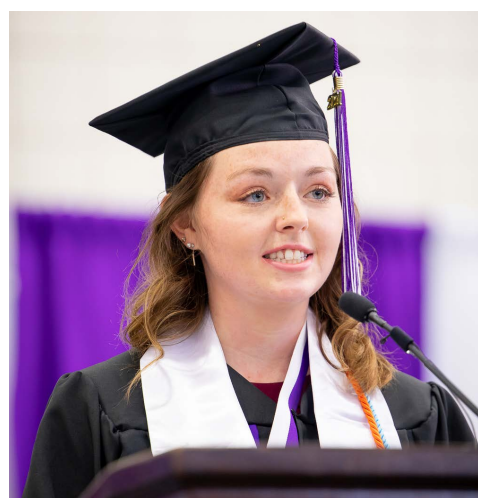
Above right: The graduating classes of 2020 and 2021.

Right: Veronica Morgan '21 gives her address as the recipient of the 2021 President's Award. This award recognizes a graduating senior who has demonstrated exemplary academic effort and engagement, as well as responsible and unselfish use of talent and leadership through their engagement in campus activities throughout their entire undergraduate career.

Far right, top: Commencement address given by Michael Patten, M.A., General Manager of Walmart Distribution Center in Mt. Pleasant.

Far right, bottom: Christine Plunkett, M.B.A., President of Iowa Wesleyan, presents the Chadwick Teacher of the Year award to Shawna Hudson, Ph.D., Professor of Education.

Opposite page: Photos during and after Commencement exercises. Following the ceremony, faculty, staff, students and their families gathered on the campus lawn for photos and fellowship.



"Being a first generation college student like most of you, all I can say is 'Wow, here we are. We did it.'"

Veronica Morgan '21, 2021 President's Award Recipient



50 Years of Nursing

AT IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

In the Spirit of Florence Nightingale

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Nursing at Iowa Wesleyan University. On January 27, 1971, Iowa Wesleyan announced the introduction of the Nursing program after receiving accreditation from the Iowa Board of Nursing. Iowa Wesleyan was seeking to fill a local need after the closure of the nursing program in Burlington created a vacancy for nursing programs in the Southeast Iowa region. IW became the smallest of five colleges in the State of Iowa to teach at the time and the only institution in Southeast Iowa to host a nursing program.

The first 18 nursing students gathered in the IW chapel on March 3, 1973, to celebrate the first annual capping ceremony, which would later become the White Coat Ceremony. This ceremony celebrates new sophomores beginning their clinical rotations. Since that first class, the nursing division has become a staple program at IW and within the Southeast Iowa region.

This Light Won't Go Out

In celebration of this milestone achievement, Lisa Kongable '86, the Division of Nursing Associate Chair and

Associate Professor of Nursing, stated, "I think it shows the commitment [Iowa Wesleyan has] to nursing and to healthcare, and our resiliency too. The fact that IW and the nursing program has been able to keep up with the changes is incredible." IW consistently examines the technological advancements in the healthcare fields and seeks to update tools used in the classroom for teaching the new generations of nurses. Students also get to learn from nurses currently in practice. Professor Kongable continues to work as

"I think Iowa Wesleyan helped me to be a lifelong learner."

Mary Tobin '86, Associate Professor of Nursing and Chair at Coe College

a Nurse Practitioner for the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in addition to teaching at IW.

In addition to the continual changes adapted from real-world shifts in healthcare practices, IW has updated the nursing program to better meet the needs of students. While IW initially started with only a prelicensure Bachelor's program, the curriculum has expanded to include an LPN to RN as well as an RN to BSN program. This allows IW to cater to a greater number

of current and future nurses.

Caring in Action

Over the years, many nursing alumni have invited and encouraged their children to also attend IW for nursing. Terri Morris '85 and her daughter, Victoria Morris '20, are one such legacy duo. Terri recalled her time at IW fondly and indicated pride and joy in her daughter for following in the same footsteps. "I really felt like Iowa Wesleyan put nurses out that were confident in what they knew . . . I have just always been a strong advocate for Iowa Wesleyan."

Victoria indicated her belief that the IW nursing program has survived 50 years because it has "adjusted as needed, but the core of the program has stayed the same." Despite the constantly changing environment of the healthcare profession, IW maintains the same principle foundations. Victoria notes that "the foundation [of the nursing program at IW] is based on critical thinking, if you have the basics of that figured out, you can apply it to any situation . . . I haven't seen a nursing program with such a strong base in critical thinking, and that is priceless."

Terri added that "Iowa Wesleyan had students prepared to be able to take the boards, to be in the workforce and just see where I remember doing that

in clinical,' or being in a leadership role and having those applications that were taught. I don't think I realized how well-rounded and the depth of that program until I was out in the workforce." The mother-daughter duo also indicated that they enjoyed the opportunity to receive three years of hands-on clinical experience, Terri noted, "I have always felt that that clinical experience is what really pulls all that didactic experience in the classroom and the lab together and puts it to a practical application."

IW students receive upwards of 500 clinical hours in a variety of care-focused settings by the time they graduate, including work in emergency rooms, mental health sites, prisons, and intensive care units. Professor Kongable notes that students experience a "full tour" of nursing "not only due to the healthcare setting type, but also the specialty type."

IW nursing students also actively engage with the campus and local community through food and blood drives, and extracurricular engagement. Many students in the nursing program are also involved in athletics or choir, allowing them to connect with students across the University. Lida Landre '20 notes, "I was blessed to have been able to go through nursing school as well as be a dual-sport athlete at Iowa Wesleyan, playing volleyball and competing in track. My coaches and my nursing professors were very understandable and helped me work through my crazy schedule. I couldn't have asked for anything more from my nursing professors or athletic coaches during my time at Iowa Wesleyan."

Mary Tobin '86 added that the nursing professors "set us up with any kind of help we needed" to succeed in nursing. Tobin recalled a specific instance of sleeping through a final exam, to be woken up by her professor Erliene Clayton calling; Tobin mentioned that she rushed across campus to the top floor of the Science Hall in her pajamas to take the exam. While taking the exam, Tobin realized that she was underdressed for the chill of the room. Professor Clayton proceeded to provide Tobin with a sweater for warmth while she completed her exam. "What a kind, caring gesture . . . that was one of my favorite memories."

Adapting for the Future

Landre echoed the sentiment of support through the challenges posed by the coronavirus, "My final semester of college was moved to almost completely online, and the nursing department did everything they could to make sure all of their students were taken care of and received the education they needed . . . my professors helped me not only get through the semester but also study for the NCLEX. My professors Kongable, Wycoff, Kittrell, and Tarrence helped me build my critical thinking skills, and prepared me to work in a critical care specialty."

Professor Kongable discussed the struggles of the Spring 2020 semester, as nursing students were unable to complete clinical experiences due to COVID-19 restrictions. "We've got to have clinical. We can't opt out of that, we don't want our nursing students just learning from the textbook. Thank goodness, we had most of our clinical hours in. We did have to resort to more clinical simulations than we usually do, it's just not the same as real-world nursing." With the coronavirus restrictions being relaxed, Aleesa Kittrell, Division of Nursing Chair and Associate Professor of Nursing, indicated, "We have since been very fortunate to have the support of multiple clinical agencies and are very fortunate to have our students back in the clinical setting completing their learning experiences."

Professor Kongable notes that COVID-19 has entered the curriculum for nursing students, especially as several students have worked on Covid units. Current students receive an education in infection control and the use of personal protective equipment. Professor Kongable emphasized the importance of "being able to work with everybody in creative and strategic ways to still support a valuable, high-quality learning experience for the student."

Iowa Wesleyan is excited for the chance to celebrate 50 years of Nursing during the Homecoming Celebration on October 1-3, 2021!

Where Are They Now?



Terri Morris '85

Instructor of Nursing and Clinical Coordinator at William Penn University



Mary Tobin '86

Associate Professor of Nursing and Chair at Coe College



Lida Landre '20

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics



Victoria Morris '20

Registered Staff Nurse on the Pulmonary Medicine Unit at Mercy Cedar Rapids, starting a Master of Science in Nursing program this summer to become a Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator



IW Nursing graduates pose with IW Nursing faculty and staff during the Spring 2021 Pinning Ceremony. **Left to Right:** Adjunct Instructor Nancy Wagner, Division of Nursing Chair Aleesa Kittrell, Rebecca Pacha '21, Roji Shahi '21, Luz Maria Linaldi '21, Sydney Cormeny '21, Karlie Heid '21, Lisa Taylor '21, Division of Nursing Associate Chair Lisa Kongable '86, Associate Professor of Nursing Carmen Wycoff, and Associate Professor of Nursing Samantha Tarrence.

Leaving a Legacy of Educators: Dr. Rebecca Beckner Retires

Dr. Rebecca S. Beckner-Goodrich, Vice President for Student Development and Title IX Coordinator at Iowa Wesleyan University, has a Curriculum Vitae spanning multiple pages of education, career experience, accomplishments, publications, and awards. Between the details is a quiet truth, speaking to her love of people and her deep commitment to the education of children and future educators. While her history at Iowa Wesleyan University may be accounted with words, Dr. Beckner's impact on IW and the region is a living document written across the careers of her students and colleagues.

Dr. Beckner joined Iowa Wesleyan University in 2012 as an Associate Professor. Nine years later, she retired in May 2021. Since her arrival, Dr. Beckner has served in multiple roles within the Education Program and across the University. Over the years, she has contributed her talents to IW as Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Coordinator (2016-2018), Teacher Education Program Chairperson (2013-2019), Education Division Chairperson (2014-2019), Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator (2019-2020), and Vice President for Student Development and Title IX Coordinator (2020-2021).

Dr. Beckner's legacy at IW can best be expressed by her former students, now educators in their own right. Becca Kokjohn '16 is a preschool teacher for Central Lee Community School District in Donnellson, Iowa. During Kokjohn's years at Iowa Wesleyan University, Dr. Beckner was a teacher and guide both in the classroom and out. "As my advisor she was the one who sat down with me to create my college plan," Kokjohn said. "She helped guide me from the day I committed to IW until the day I graduated. However, she didn't stop



serving as a mentor and advisor when I graduated. Dr. Beckner is still the person I call whenever I have any questions about my teaching. I think that this shows just how much she cared about the students she had. She is always more than willing to help us grow as educators, even after we have left her classroom."

Colleagues at Iowa Wesleyan University speak to Dr. Beckner's commitment to and impact on the institution. "As Education Chair, Dr. Becky Beckner was one of the most highly organized, creative and hardworking people I have ever had the opportunity to work alongside. Her accomplishments are lengthy and include her successful work on

the Iowa Department of Education accreditation and training/mentoring numerous new faculty over the years." said Dr. DeWayne Frazier, University Provost. Dr. Frazier went on to praise Dr. Beckner's service as Vice President for Student Development. "She has been a great colleague in this endeavor and has brought such a great deal of additional wisdom and ideas to our University Leadership Cabinet," Dr. Frazier said.

Dr. Beckner's specialties in the areas of childhood education and mental health care extend beyond the University campus. Her history of service to the Henry County region is extensive, including membership on the Early Childhood Area Board for Henry and Washington Counties (2012-2015), and

"Dr. Beckner played such a huge role in making me the teacher I am today."

Becca Kokjohn '16, Preschool Teacher, Central Lee Community School District in Donnellson, Iowa



current membership on the Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Summit Planning Committee. Dr. Beckner's work even extends overseas. Since 2017, she provides Early Childhood Consultation with EvolveED, a Bangalore, India-based organization working in the space of childcare and focused on building inner strength, enhancing self-awareness, and strengthening human connections.

Over the years, Dr. Beckner made personal connections at IW, both to her students and her colleagues. "Dr. Beckner served as the chair of the search committee that brought my family and me to Iowa Wesleyan," says Dr. Frazier. "I will miss many aspects of her professional work here on campus, but I can say with the greatest of love, I will miss most our daily interaction over the years, her listening ear, her sage advice and her passion for people."

"Dr. Beckner played such a huge role in making me the teacher I am today," Becca Kokjohn added. "I am so thankful that I was able to have her guiding and teaching me. She is one in a million and I know she will be greatly missed!"

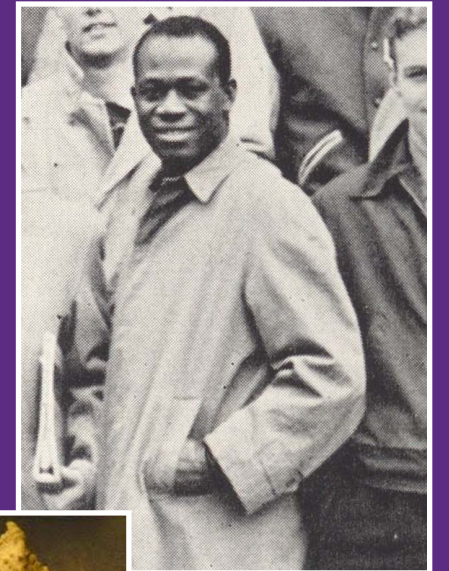
Iowa Wesleyan University celebrates Dr. Beckner's years of service, the strong foundation of human connection that will shape the culture of IW, and childhood education in the Southeast Iowa region for years to come.

A Tiger's Global Impact: A Dedication to Dr. Clement Isong '54

In February 2021, Iowa Wesleyan University honored alumnus Dr. Clement Isong '54 and his family with a memorial dedication housed in the International Room of the Chadwick Library. Dr. DeWayne Frazier, University Provost, noted that "we wanted to make sure we had a chance to honor Clement Isong for generations to come. With this plaque hanging in this room in the library, students and people on visiting tours can see the kind of impact IW people of color can have."

Dr. Isong was one of three Nigerian students to come to IW in 1951. He studied Economics and sang in the choir. As a student, he began a lecture circuit in the greater Southeast Iowa region to speak about African heritage, culture, and Methodism. He became so well known that local groups began to refer to him as an "old friend." Dr. Isong graduated from IW in 1954 near the top of his class before completing his master's and doctoral degrees with Harvard University.

After returning to Nigeria in 1967, Dr. Isong was appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria from 1967 to 1975 during which time he spearheaded the conversion of the Nigerian currency from the pound to the naira. In 1979, Dr. Isong was elected Governor of Nigeria's Cross



Dr. Clement Isong



Dr. Isong's image on the Nigerian N1000 banknote, introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2005.

River State. He is one of the most celebrated governors in Nigerian history.

Dr. Isong died in May 2000. In October 2005, the Central Bank of Nigeria introduced the N1000 banknote which remains the highest financial denomination, featuring the image of Dr. Isong alongside his predecessor, Mallam Aliyu Mai-Bornu. Dr. Isong

is the only known student from the State of Iowa to be recognized on their home country's currency.

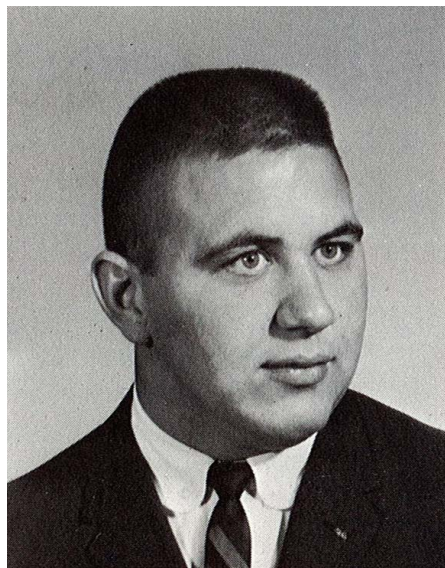
Dr. Isong's family continues to remain in contact with IW and they hope to visit campus in the coming years.

J.D. Schimmelpfennig '63

The Definition of a Mentor

On the Iowa Wesleyan University campus, everyone knows Jerry Dean “J.D.” Schimmelpfennig. Smiles widen and voices grow fond as friends, faculty and staff share memories, using two nicknames interchangeably for a single man, sometimes even within the same sentence: “J.D.” and “Schimm.” Described as a big, soft-spoken man with an even bigger personality, J.D. leaves behind a legacy of community building and personal connection to IW.

J.D. was a 1963 graduate of Iowa Wesleyan, where he majored in Physical Education. He was a member of the football team and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He would go on to receive his masters from Northeast Missouri State (now Truman State) in 1973, and Harvard University’s Entrepreneurial Program in 1976. However, the relationships forged in his years at IW grew into lifelong friendships and



J.D. Schimmelpfennig’s Senior photo, from the 1963 edition of the *Croaker*.

business partnerships. “When he came to IW, he took IW with him for the rest of his life,” said Jim Pedrick ’80, Development Director at Iowa Wesleyan University.

While at Iowa Wesleyan, J.D. met his future wife, Kathleen Grandall ’64. They would be married just a few months after his graduation in August of 1963. Kathy Grandall Schimmelpfennig became his “bride, best friend, and co-pilot” for a devoted 57 years of marriage. Together they shared the raising of four sons: Tad, Matt, Joe and Sam; challenging business startups; and leadership and volunteer roles in Henry County, Mount Pleasant, and IW.

J.D. returned to Iowa in 1964 as an educator and a coach in Keosauqua. In this role, he positively impacted the lives of many students and players. However, J.D.’s interest in entrepreneurship drew him away to launch his first small business, Homefoamers, in 1974. A few years later in 1981, he launched Lomont Molding, Inc. Lomont would flourish for 33 years under J.D.’s leadership, providing employment opportunities across the region.

Jason Bender ’98, President/CEO of Lomont Molding and a member of the IW Board of Trustees, got to know J.D. when he first joined the Lomont team in 2000. Bender worked alongside J.D. in a variety of roles prior to his retirement from Lomont in 2014. “He loved the challenge of business and he loved working with people who are willing to

learn,” Bender said, “to make them better leaders in the workplace and contributors in the community.”

That positive economic impact, paired with J.D.’s generosity, mentorship, and volunteerism, has woven his legacy into the fabric of Mount Pleasant. Over the years, he has dedicated his time and business acumen to the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, the Mount Pleasant School Board, and the Mount Pleasant Area Development Commission Board of Directors.

Though best known regionally for his business successes, J.D. returned again and again to the role of educator and mentor. Bender remembers his commitment to academic learning programs in the Mount Pleasant Community Schools, such as Project Lead the Way (Pre-Engineering) and Industrial Tech programs. He volunteered his time to coach a number of Mount Pleasant youth sports while his sons were young, but his support of youth athletics and education continued after they were grown.

Both J.D. and Kathy were frequent attendees in the stands at IW home games or in the audience of IW’s annual Service of Lessons & Carols. For the generous gifts of time and talents, J.D. received the IW Alumni Service Award in 2007, and both J.D. and Kathy received the Mount Pleasant Citizen of the Year Award in 2013.

J.D.’s volunteerism extended to Iowa Wesleyan University as well. He



Above: J.D. Schimmelpfennig with wife Kathy (Grandall) Schimmelpfennig pose for a photo at the Homecoming Alumni Banquet on October 21, 2017.

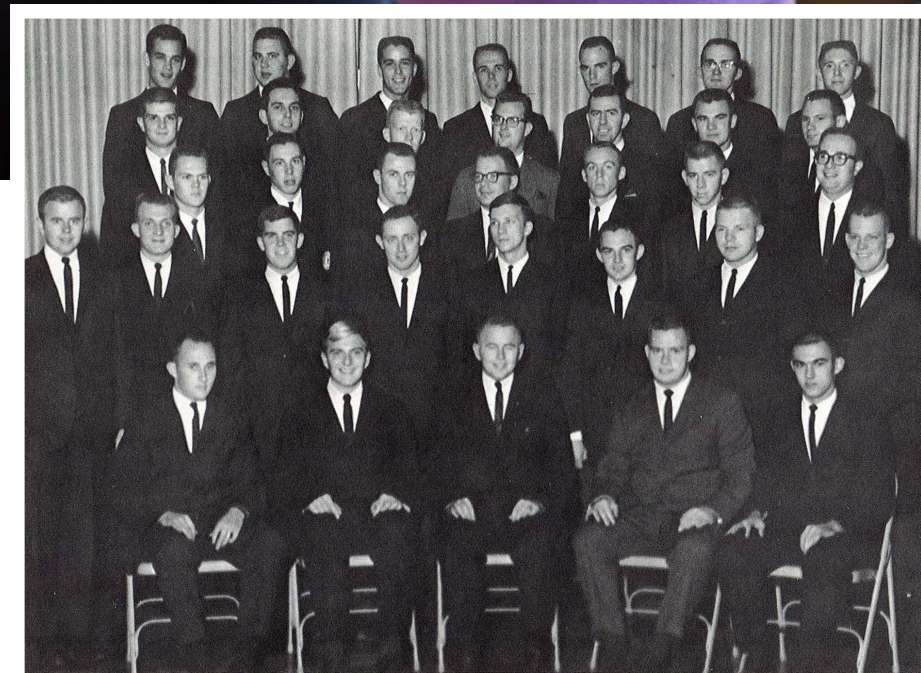
Right: J.D. chats with guest alumni during Homecoming 2018.

Bottom Right: J.D. Schimmelpfennig (Row five, second from the left) made lifelong relationships in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Photo from the 1963 edition of the *Croaker*.

would serve first as Treasurer for the IW Alumni Association Board in 1973, then as a Trustee in 1978. J.D. would go on to serve on the IW Board of Trustees until 1981, and then another 13-year term from 2007 to 2020. As a Trustee, J.D. helped usher IW into the future and secure its existence for years to come.

To Jason Bender, J.D. Schimmelpfennig provided the clear definition of what a mentor is and should be. “There are many kind and dedicated people committed to business or to the community, but rarely do you find it in both as J.D. and Kathy have graciously demonstrated. They have done their part to try and make Iowa Wesleyan, Mt. Pleasant, and Southeast Iowa a great place to live.” Bender said.

J.D. Schimmelpfennig passed away on February 12, 2021, following a battle with Alzheimer’s disease. His sense of humor, generosity, enduring kindness, and servant’s heart endeared him to the faculty, staff and students of IW. While his absence is deeply felt, his commitment to service and community remains an enduring presence at Iowa Wesleyan University.



ACTIVES: ROW ONE: D. Longwell, D. Boley, J. Becker, F. Miller, D. Nelson. ROW TWO: J. Becker, D. Heaton, B. Yager, G. Ziegenhorn, R. Canby, J. Stevens, D. Riggall, R. Williams. ROW THREE: J. Hutchinson, G. Kissell, E. Snyder, J. Warth, S. Hedlund, K. Frey, D. Klinke. ROW FOUR: L. Friel, B. Loucks, T. Anderson, G. Elliot, J. Frey, H. Gieselmann, L. Jones. ROW FIVE: W. Allen, J. D. Schimmelpfennig, R. Callis, D. Strait, W. Welsch, W. Warth, R. Mann.

“When [J.D.] came to IW, he took IW with him for the rest of his life.”

Jim Pedrick ’80, IW Development Director

Annette Jennings Scieszinski '77

A Lifetime of Leadership

To know what a person values most, one has only to learn where their time and talents lie. Even a glimpse of the remarkable life of Annette Jennings Scieszinski '77 reveals a deep commitment to service, a love of youth mentorship, and a generous spirit. Iowa Wesleyan University is one of many regional, state, and national organizations to benefit from her experience and strong leadership, but her connection to IW is also one of the heart.

Annette left a lasting mark on IW through her early years as a student, her engagement with the Alumni Association and the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and most recently through her dedicated and selfless service on the IW Board of Trustees. "Annette was instrumental in guiding the University to our recent successful partnership with Southeastern Community College," said Chris

Plunkett, President of Iowa Wesleyan University. "The entire Iowa Wesleyan community has benefited tremendously from her unwavering and longstanding commitment to the University, and

from her warm and genuine friendship."

Friends and colleagues at Iowa Wesleyan remember Annette with warmth. Elizabeth E. Davenport Garrels '67, L.H.D. '11, IW Trustee, recalls Annette's competence and generous spirit even from a young age. Garrels chaired the "Sweet Sixteen" competition at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in 1971 and took notice of young competitor Annette. "Miss Annette Jennings, age 16, was the hands-down recipient of this distinction that year," Garrels said. "Her bent and aptitude for volunteer service beyond herself was quite evident as a high schooler."

Annette's relationship with Iowa Wesleyan University began in the autumn of 1973, a poised and gracious high school valedictorian with deep Iowa farming roots. She graduated from Iowa Wesleyan summa cum laude in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English (with secondary-

teaching certification) and minors in French, Theater Arts, and Mass Communications. While at Wesleyan, Annette was active in student government, performed in several theatre productions, was President of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, served as Editor of The Courier, and rallied as a Tigers cheerleader.

Upon leaving the Iowa Wesleyan campus, Annette earned her Juris Doctorate Degree at the University of Iowa in 1980, where she participated in student government and distinguished herself as an editor of The Iowa Law Review. She was admitted to the bar in Iowa's state courts, Iowa's federal courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Annette practiced law until 1996, when Governor Terry E. Branstad appointed her as a District Court Judge for the 10 counties of Iowa District 8-A. She served 20 years before retirement and worked as a Senior Judge for three years. In the course of Annette's judicial career, she was elected President of the Iowa Judges Association and received the Association's highest honor, the Award of Merit. Annette attained the chairmanship of the National Conference of State Trial Judges and was a leader in judicial education with an emphasis in professional ethics.

Annette's commitment to and passion for Iowa Wesleyan University led her back to campus in 2013, when she was elected to the IW Board of Trustees. She assumed the office of Chair in 2017; and, for several years prior to that office, led the Board's Academic Affairs and



Annette during the Homecoming Alumni Banquet on October 20, 2017.

"The entire Iowa Wesleyan community has benefited tremendously from her unwavering and longstanding commitment to the University, and from her warm and genuine friendship."

Christine Plunkett, IW President

Student Engagement Committee and served on the IW Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Consistent with her Iowa Wesleyan roots, Annette was actively involved with the philanthropic mission of P.E.O. Annette served as President of Chapter H in Albia and was a member on the statewide Executive Committee of P.E.O. "Through the years Annette and I share another bond, that of the P.E.O. Sisterhood," Garrels remarked in 2017, when Annette received the IW Distinguished Alum Award, "Both of us highly value the significant place of Iowa Wesleyan University in the origin and growth of P.E.O.'s philanthropic successes. To that end, Annette [was] a tireless proponent and worker to lift up this relevant relationship to the world at large."

Annette excelled in oil painting, exhibiting in a handful of juried art shows each year. She was an enthusiastic patron of the art community in her region, where she initiated and supported art events and served as President of the Monroe County Arts Council. She and her husband, John, were also active in historic preservation, sponsoring three National Register of Historic Places

over time. She was passionate about working with youth both on and off the IW campus and, as a devoted parent and grandparent, she participated as a 4-H leader for 25 years. She also served in various service capacities over the years for Iowa Wesleyan University, the Iowa Law School, and Drake University Law School.

Annette passed away on February 26, 2021, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. A private family Memorial Mass was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, Iowa. Annette is survived by her husband of 42 years, John J. Scieszinski, D.D.S., and their four daughters: Lauren Marie Scieszinski, of Kingston, Tennessee; Susan Claire Scieszinski, of Centerville, Iowa; Brooke Anastasia Scieszinski of Brooklyn, New York; and Caroline Rose Scieszinski of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The

Scieszinskis have four grandchildren: Emily Marie Bennett, Paige Elizabeth Bennett, and Norah Katherine Bennett of Kingston, Tennessee; and Drake Thomas Daniels of Centerville, Iowa.

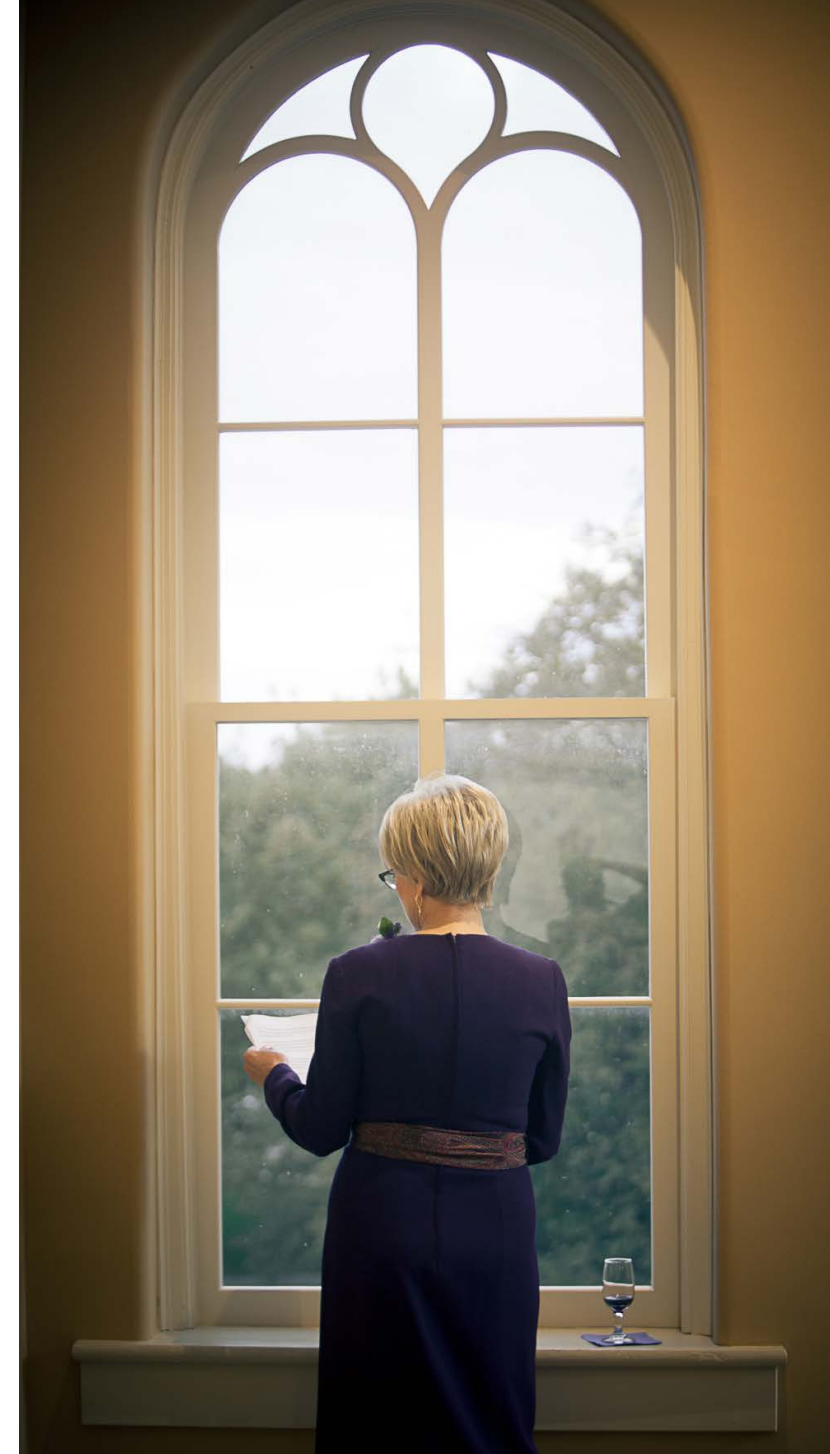
Annette is greatly missed at Iowa Wesleyan University, but her impact and her legacy continues on. Elizabeth Garrels perhaps found the best way to approach such a life of devoted service — gratitude. "Thank you, Annette," she said, "for all you mean, by definition, to Iowa Wesleyan University."



Above left: Annette (right) with fellow IW cheerleader, 1977 Croaker. Above: Senior photo, 1977 Croaker.



Above: Annette spends a few minutes with the IW Cheer team during the Homecoming festivities October 21, 2017.



Annette pauses for a moment in the Union Block to review her notes for remarks given during the Homecoming Alumni Banquet on October 20, 2017.

Tiger Athletics in 2020-21

Although it was a challenging year for the student-athletes of Iowa Wesleyan University, the time finally came for competitions. After waiting all fall and winter, on February 5th, the Tiger Men's Wrestling team took to the mat in IW's first competition date of the 2020-2021 academic year. The other 17 athletic programs followed and were all able to have their season. Through navigating online and in-person classes, practicing all fall and winter, and constant Covid testing, student-athletes were finally able to step onto their fields/courts/mats to compete as a Tiger. Tiger Athletics competed for 111 days in 156 athletic contests and hosted 60 home events in the spring semester.

Wrestling

The men's wrestling team was the first to begin competition, hosting the Griffins of Fontbonne University on February 5 for a dual. This was the first wrestling competition for Tiger Athletics since the 1970's. The Tigers picked up a 33-16 win with Brendan Ferenchik (FR/Callahan, FL), Gaige Owens (FR/Marion, IL), Jesus Diaz (FR/Miami Lakes, FL), Humberto Alcala (FR/Edinburg, TX), and Zach Thomas (FR/Coon Rapids, MN) all defeating their opponents. The Tigers picked up their second win over the Blue Jays of Westminster College on February 12. Six out of the 10 Tigers who competed that day picked up wins, defeating the Blue Jays by a score of 33-24. After this excellent start to the season, the Tigers dropped two duals to tough opponents, the Rams of Cornell College and Indian Hills Community College. Several

Tigers also gained some experience by competing at the NWCA DIII Nationals in March.

The women's wrestling team had their first competition on February 21 when they traveled to Stevens Point, Wisconsin, to compete in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship (NCWWC) Regionals. All five Tigers who competed that day qualified for Nationals and they secured fourth place as a team at the meet. Alaina Sunlin (FR/Monticello, IA) and Daisy Scholz (FR/Bennett, CO) became the first two student-athletes in IW history to become women's wrestling All-Americans after securing 5th and 6th place in their respective weight classes at the national tournament. The Tigers hosted one home wrestling dual this spring against Indian Hills Community College. Sunlin was the only Tiger able to walk away with a win after defeating her opponent by fall in the second period.

Basketball

The women's basketball team took the floor in their first game of the spring season on January 24 as they hosted the Kohawks of Coe College. The Tigers had a tough season, facing a lot of stiff competition. IW finished 2-13 overall and 2-9 in St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) play, dropping their final game against the Blue Jays of Westminster College in the quarterfinal round of the conference tournament. Anija Simmons (FR/Plano, TX) was named the SLIAC Newcomer of the Year and earned Second Team All-Conference honors



Alaina Sunlin '24 wins her bout as the Tigers take on Indian Hills at the Ruble Arena on February 26, 2021.

after she culminated 129 rebounds for the season, 97 of which were defensive. Morgan McCrea (SR/Hattiesburg, MS) was named First Team All-Conference after finishing first in the SLIAC in total number of 3-pointers made, draining 41.

The men's basketball team suffered a heartbreaking loss to end their season on April 8 against the Beavers of Blackburn College in the semifinals round of the conference tournament. IW finished 5-10 overall and 4-7 in the SLIAC. The Tigers largest margin of victory was a 29-point win over Finlandia University at home on February 13, their first win of the season. IW will return the majority of their team for next season along with some stellar recruits. First-year Tiger Carver Locke



Kaleb Cresswell '22 drives the lane and goes up for a layup as the Tigers take on Cornell, February 6, 2021

(JR/Maui, Hawaii) was named to the All-Tournament Team after putting up 34 points in the two tournament games. Jarryd Fernandes (SR/Sydney, Australia) was given First Team All-Conference honors after he ended the season ranked first in field goals, offensive rebounds, defensive rebounds, total number of rebounds, and rebounds per game in the SLIAC.

Cross Country and Track & Field

The men's and women's track and field teams competed in four indoor meets this winter with the SLIAC Indoor Championships being the final competition. The men's team was able to take third place and the women's side took fifth overall. Nine Tigers took home all-conference medals that day in the shot put, distance medley relay, 60-meter hurdles, and triple jump. During the outdoor season, the Tigers saw several historic performances. The Tigers saw six performances throughout the season that ranked top ten for program history. Allison Morris (JR/Antioch, IL) earned SLIAC Track Athlete of the Week as well as qualified for Drake Relays, the first Tiger to do so since 2014. Morris garnered All-Conference honors in the 10,000 meter race at the SLIAC Outdoor Championships and first team All-Conference honors at the SLIAC Cross Country Championships. Blake Lenzie (SO/South Wilmington, IL)

also garnered All-Conference honors at the SLIAC Outdoor Championships in the 3,000 meter steeplechase.

Volleyball

Jenna Murphy (SR/Pella, IA) was the lone Tiger to earn SLIAC honors on the volleyball team this spring season. Murphy was named the Co-Defensive Player of the Year. She led the SLIAC in total number of digs, picking up 286 for the season. IW was victorious in their first match of the season as they hosted Eureka College on February 6 in the Ruble Arena. The Tigers defeated the Red Devils in three straight sets. IW concluded their season after taking two losses in the conference tournament. The first loss was to Westminster College in the quarterfinal round, and the final loss came to the Beavers of Blackburn College who defeated the Tigers in a consolation round of the tournament in five sets.

Football

The football team finished 1-2, in their shortened season due to COVID-19. Despite the short season, the Tigers put up impressive numbers. In two out of three games, the Tigers threw for over 300 yards, implementing the air raid offense that originated at Iowa Wesleyan. The Tiger defense also



De'Anna Houston '23 jumps 3.82m in the long jump event during the Viking Relays in Des Moines on March 26, 2021.



Jaheem Hampton '23 scores a touchdown against Westminster when the Tigers played a home game at Bracewell Stadium on April 10, 2021.

proved to be dominant, forcing eight turnovers over the short three-game season. First-year head coach MD Daniels and his staff were able to pick up their first win over Westminster, winning by three touchdowns with a final score of 35-14. Joseph Pace (FR/Long Beach, California) earned Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) honors, being named the conference defensive player of the week for his performance in the first game against the Westminster Blue Jays.

Soccer

The women's soccer team opened up their spring season with a dominant 9-0 win over Blackburn College, their largest win of the season. Though the young Tiger team showed promise for the coming years, the Tigers finished a tough season finishing 3-9 overall and 2-7 in SLIAC play. Jacequeline Campos (FR/Azusa, CA) earned SLIAC Third Team All-Conference honors in her first year

in an IW jersey. Campos tallied 4 goals, 1 assist, 9 points, and took 29 shots, 19 of which were on goal. The Tigers finished their season with a tough loss to the No. 3 seeded Westminster Blue Jays in the SLIAC Tournament.

The men's soccer team put up another great season finishing with a 6-2-2 overall and SLIAC record. Aftering having a great regular season, the Tiger's season ended in heartbreak with a 1-0 loss to Fontbonne University in the SLIAC Tournament. The Tigers garnered several postseason honors with Vincent Sanchis (FR/Valencia, Spain) earning Newcomer of the Year for the SLIAC and SLIAC First Team All-Conference honors. Sanchis had 49 saves during the season and finished second in the conference in save percentage (.907). Francisco Javier Saldana (JR/Madrid, Spain) and Geovanny Pacheco (FR/Costa Rica) were given SLIAC First Team All-Conference honors as well. Xavier Lozada (SO/Guayaquil, Ecuador), Cristian Garcia (SR/Spain), and Tomasz Karauda (FR/Canada) were all given SLIAC Second Team All-Conference honors.

Golf

The women's golf team won three tournaments and finished in second place in four tournaments. The Tigers finished in the top two in seven of their eight tournaments and finished in the top three in all eight tournaments. The Tigers also shot one of the lowest rounds in school history at the Illinois College Invitational shooting a 353 as a team. Tereza Diez Dorta (SO/Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain) won the individual title at the Fighting Scot Spring Invite during the season and finished in the top three individually five other times during the season. At the SLIAC Championship Tournament, Diez finished in sixth place to earn Second Team SLIAC All-Conference honors. At the SLIAC Championship Tournament, the team finished in third place to end their season.

The men's golf team had three top-



Joe Herges '24 throws a pitch as the Tigers play a tough game against Webster on May 10, 2021.

five finishes during their spring season as the team battled tough opponents and weather throughout the season. The team's best performance came at the Simpson Invitational where the team shot 335 in the one-round tournament. Kenneth Tucker (FR/Carrizo Springs, TX) finished tied for fourth at the Simpson Invitational shooting a 78 for the round. At the SLIAC Championship Tournament, the Tigers finished in ninth place after three rounds. Jeff Cox (SR/Mount Pleasant, IA) was the top finisher for the Tigers placing 34 at the tournament.

Softball

The softball team started their season slow, but bounced back to finish 4-4 in SLIAC play and 5-9 overall. The Tigers began postseason play defeating Westminster College in the first round of the SLIAC tournament. In day two of the SLIAC tournament, the Tigers lost their first game to the No. 1 seeded Fontbonne Griffins in a heartbreaker. A loss to Spalding University finished the Tiger's season. Morgan Christner (SR/New London, IA) was named the SLIAC pitcher of the year and named First Team All-Conference for the second year in a row. This season, Christner led the SLIAC in earned run average, 1.90, total number of strikeouts, and strikeouts per game. Kayla Ford (SR/Washington, IL) was named Second

Team All-Conference. She finished the regular season with a .343 batting average, a .439 on-base percentage, and a .571 slugging percentage. Alex Eyman (JR/Lockport, IL) was named to the SLIAC All-Tournament for her performance in the tournament.

Baseball

The baseball team battled tough opponents during the course of their season. The team finished the regular season 9-21 in SLIAC play and overall. In the SLIAC tournament the Tigers took on No. 3 seeded Fontbonne University and lost. Facing elimination, the Tigers were down 3-2 in the bottom of ninth with two out and Levi Avery (JR/Forsyth, GA) on second. Max Wyninger (FR/Tuscola, IL) was at the plate with a full count. Wyninger blasted the next pitch he saw over the right field fence to walk-off the game and keep the Tigers alive in the tournament. The Tigers once again face Fontbonne University, and the Griffins sent the Tigers home to end their season. Nick Salas (JR/Pipe Creek, TX) earned SLIAC First Team All-Conference honors, the only member of the baseball team to receive the honor. Salas had a batting average of .264, 9 home runs, and 22 RBIs over the course of the season for the Tigers.

Iowa Wesleyan Celebrates 50 Years of Tiger Softball

The spring 2021 season marked 50 years of Tiger Softball at Iowa Wesleyan. The softball program began on IW's campus in the spring of 1971 under Coach Betty Sammons, IW Athletic Hall of Fame member, who also coached other women's programs at IW. The Tigers' first season record was 2-2. Coach Sammons went on to coach the Tigers until 1990. She had an overall coaching record of 98-181.

After Coach Sammons, Coach Val Enenbach took the helm. She coached from 1991-1993 and obtained an overall coaching record of 36-44. The third and current head coach for the Tiger Softball program is Coach Mike Hampton. Coach Hampton took the reins in 1994, going 27-21 in his first season, followed by wins of 40 and 41 over the next



IW Tiger Softball players Kayla Ford '21 and Kylie Topliff '24 designed commemorative 50 Years of Softball tee shirts.

two years. Spring 2021 was Coach Hampton's 28th season as IW's head coach. He currently has an overall coaching record of 634-617.

In the 50 years of competition, Tiger Softball has seen 20 winning seasons, five conference or conference tournament championships, and two national tournament appearances, in 2011 and 2013. In 2013, the Tigers placed fourth in the USCAA National Softball Tournament.

In IW's 50th season, the Tigers were able to achieve a record of 6-11 overall and 5-6 in SLIAC play. The Tigers made a conference tournament appearance and found a way to upset the Blue Jays of Westminster College with a score of 6-0 in the quarterfinal round of the tournament and IW hit three home runs in that game. In the double elimination tournament, the Tigers were defeated by the number one ranked Fontbonne University Griffins and the number three Spalding University Golden Eagles to be eliminated from the tournament. IW Senior Morgan Christner was named the SLIAC Pitcher of the Year and earned First-Team All-Conference honors for the second year in a row. Fellow teammate Kayla Ford earned Second-Team All-Conference honors.

In their 51st season, Tiger Softball is currently scheduled to take the field on February 11th, traveling to Paragould, Arkansas, to take on Crowley College for a 2:00 pm contest.



Left: Jurnee Adams '22 steps in with the pitch as the Tigers play a home game against Greenville on April 2, 2021.

Featured Athletes



Breanna Mettler '22, Iowa Softball



Antwaun Scott '24, Illinois Track & Field



Anna Leidl '21, Saskatchewan Volleyball



Kassandra Ayard '24, California Women's Wrestling



Carver Locke '22, Hawaii Men's Basketball



Morgan McCrea '21, Missouri Women's Basketball

TIGER ATHLETICS

Spring 2021 Student-Athlete Semester Perspective

The spring semester of 2021 has been different than any other in Iowa Wesleyan University history due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our student-athletes have dealt with this personally while trying to navigate their classes and athletic seasons over these past few months.

Many of our student-athletes found this spring semester to be challenging to navigate due to the COVID-19 pandemic for many different reasons. "The start of the semester was tough, but it got better as it went on. It was hard for me to learn through a computer screen when that was the only choice that we had," stated Breanna Mettler '22 (New London, IA), a member of the IW Tiger Softball team.

For other students, that change was not as drastic as they thought it would be. Antwaun Scott '24 (Woodridge, IL), member of the IW Tiger Track & Field team said, "Navigating the spring semester was a lot easier than the fall semester because I felt like everyone knew what to expect. It was such a drastic change in the world that a lot of systems had to change. But everyone knows what to expect and knows how to have fun while being safe."

Student-athletes also felt the impact of the pandemic on their athletic seasons. Due to the pandemic, all athletic seasons were moved to the spring semester and this made it difficult for teams to find practice times.

Anna Leidl '21 (Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, Canada), a member of the IW Tiger Volleyball team stated, "Having everyone competing during one semester was very hectic, as gym time was limited, so we never had a consistent practice schedule."

Mettler also found that having everyone compete during the same semester was difficult, but for a different reason. "I think it was hard for dual-sport athletes to choose which one they wanted to partake in," she stated. "I know it was hard for me."

Our student-athletes felt that the competitive experience from this spring semester was different from years past. Kassandra Ayard '24 (Menifee, CA) who is a member of the IW Women's Wrestling team said, "I wish we were able to compete more during the season, but because of COVID, we didn't have as many matches as a normal season."

Another significant difference that our student-athletes faced during the spring semester was not being able to have fans or only have limited fans at their athletic events.

"Not having fans at our events was very discouraging, especially being a senior," Leidl noted. "My parents were not even able to attend my senior night, due to COVID-19, which was very disappointing."

Carver Locke '22 (Maui, Hawaii), a member of the Men's Basketball team, thought not having fans at a game was a bit of an awkward experience. "Not being able to have fans at the games was definitely a little weird, but I don't think it hindered my game," Locke said. "We kind of replaced the presence of fans with being really loud on the bench."

Our IW student-athletes also missed attending sporting events and supporting their fellow Tigers. "I definitely missed attending other athletic events," said Morgan McCrea '21 (Hattiesburg, MO), a member of the Women's basketball team. "I'm a sports fan, so it's fun to see some other teams play. It was unfortunate to have limited or no fans."

Our Tiger student-athletes have shown resilience during these trying times and have shown others what it means to be an Iowa Wesleyan Tiger. We are so proud of our student-athletes and cannot wait to watch them compete again in the Fall of 2021.



Left: Anna Leidl '21 walks during Senior Night, February 6, 2021. When Leidl's parents were unable to come due to the pandemic, Leidl was escorted by friends: Jay and Tracey Murphy, parents of her teammate Jenna Murphy; Luke Lenoch, Leidl's boyfriend; and Raelene Lenoch, Luke Lenoch's mother.

TIGER ATHLETICS

Four New Coaches

Join IW Tiger Athletics Program



Jorge Sierra Galeas '18 Men's Soccer



Steve Williamson '00 Women's Basketball



Hunter Davis Cross Country Track & Field



Ashley Miller Volleyball

Tiger Athletics has welcomed four new coaches to its department this spring. The Tigers have new leaders for men's soccer, women's basketball, men's & women's track & field/men's & women's cross country, and the women's volleyball program.

Jorge Sierra Galeas took the reins of the Tiger men's soccer program just nine days prior to the Tigers taking the pitch for their first competition of the spring season. Steve Williamson, who has taken over as the head women's basketball coach, has been the Tigers' women's basketball head coach previously and is looking to turn things around and build the program back up to its historical standings. The third addition to the head coaching staff at IW is Hunter Davis. Coach Davis has overseen the cross country and track and field teams this academic year and officially took over the programs as the head coach on May 3. The final addition was Ashley Miller, who stepped into the role at the beginning of June 2021.

Coach Sierra Galeas, a 2018 graduate of IW, competed under former head coach Tony Odorisio and was a key player in elevating the competitiveness of the men's soccer program. While a Tiger, Sierra Galeas earned SLIAC and USCAA National All-Academic honors. He also spent some time as a team intern, coaching alongside Coach Odorisio. Before returning to IW, he was the assistant men's and women's soccer coach at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington, Iowa. Eight of his student-athletes at SCC were named to the NJCAA Region XI (ICCAC) All-Conference teams. Taking over the IW program just over a week prior to the start of the season, Coach Sierra Galeas found a way to lead the Tigers to a 6-2-2 record and a conference tournament appearance. IW fell to Fontbonne University in the quarterfinals round of the tournament with a score of 1-0 to conclude their season.

Coach Williamson, a 2000 graduate of IW, was announced as the new head coach of the women's basketball program on March 21 and hit the ground running with recruiting and preparing for the Tigers' 2021-2022 season. During his first stint with the Tigers, he accumulated 246 wins, four conference championships, five conference tournament championships, and eight national tournament appearances, one of which ended in the Tigers finishing as runner-up in 2016. In 2009, the women's basketball team was the #14 ranked team in the country and appeared in the "Sweet 16" and the "Elite 8" in the national tournament. He also had several players earn All-American honors, including five first-teamers, and four players earned Player of the Year honors under his leadership. Williamson also earned Coach of the Year honors three times

during his previous tenure at Iowa Wesleyan. He was inducted into the Iowa Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2019. Prior to his return to IW, Williamson was the head coach of the William Penn women's basketball team. There, he was recognized as the Heart of America Coach of the Year twice, led the team to Conference Championships (first time in 31 years), led three teams to become NAIA National Tournament Qualifiers, and coached three All-Americans and one Conference Player of the Year. The Tiger women's basketball team will kick off their 2021-2022 season on October 27 with a home contest against Waldorf University inside the Ruble Arena.

Coach Davis, who has been a graduate assistant coach for the track and field and cross country programs since the fall of 2019 and has seen time as the interim head coach, was elevated to the official head coach of the four programs on May 3. Coach Davis led the Tigers to earn many All-Conference honors this spring and even coached one Tiger to qualify for the Drake Relays. He coached Allison Morris to earn First-Team All-Conference honors at the SLIAC Cross Country Championships, took 3rd and 5th place at the SLIAC Indoor Championships, and took all-conference honors in men's shot put, men's distance medley, men's 60-meter hurdles, men's triple jump, women's triple jump, and the women's distance medley. At the SLIAC Outdoor Championships, the Tigers took all-conference honors in the women's 10,000-meter run and the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase. Coach Davis also coached the Tigers to achieve two IW school records and 35 top-ten performances.

Coach Miller came to IW from William Penn as well. She spent the past two years as the graduate assistant coach for their volleyball program. She was a key part in taking the Statesmen from a 12-19 record to a 17-9 record. During her collegiate athletic career, Miller was a three-time all-Heart performer, three-time team captain, was named Heart Player of the Week six times, and was named the Sterling Female Athlete of the Year three years in a row. "I am very excited to be given this opportunity as the next head coach at Iowa Wesleyan," stated Ashley. "The volleyball program has the potential to do big things, and I am very eager to see it all come together!"



ALUMNI

Erin Noon-Kay '12

2021 Young Alumni Award



Erin Noon-Kay '12 is the CEO & Founder of Claiming Disability LLC. Noon-Kay identifies as a "fierce disabled entrepreneurial woman" with Cerebral Palsy. She uses a walker and a wheelchair occasionally, but she believes it's "OK" to look disabled and is working hard to

bring representation for disability in film and everyday culture through media projects and disability-related content. Noon-Kay believes "disabled" is NOT a bad word, but a badge of honor, a beautiful community, and a culture.

Noon-Kay has worked in the non-profit, governmental, and business sector for over ten years. Through Claiming Disability, Noon-Kay strives to educate, advocate, and empower disabled people through media projects including podcasts, interviews, videos, films, and more. Claiming Disability is connected to over 4,000 disability advocates from around the world, including Jim Lebrecht and Nicole Newnham, the Directors/Executive Producers of the award-winning 2020 documentary film, *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*. In *Crip Camp*, a groundbreaking summer camp galvanizes a group of teens with disabilities to help build a movement, forging a new path toward greater equality.

Claiming Disability wants to spread their messages of empowerment and compassion. They believe that a single action can make a difference in the community and that shared experiences can positively impact inclusion. Through advocacy and outreach activities, their team and community of supporters work to embrace diversity and disability as an asset toward the greater good.

You can find more information about Claiming Disability at claimingdisabilityinc.org.

LaSharon Taylor '05

2021 Young Alumni Award



SGT LaSharon Taylor '05 swore allegiance to the United States of America Army National Guard on February 27, 2007. She has spent 15 years in various roles in the Military Police, Transportation, and Joint Force Headquarters as a Human Resource Specialist. Taylor was an MP team leader for the Iowa Army

National Guard and a Non-Commissioned Officer for the Kansas Army National Guard as an HET driver and Human Service Resource Specialist.

Taylor's prior military assignments include Specialist and Team Leader for the 186 Military Police Company in 2009, SGT and team leader for the 778th Transportation Company, and Squad Leader and Team Leader for the 137th Transportation Troop Command on the Southwest Border Mission with the Kansas National Guard. She has supported Flood Security operations with the Iowa National Guard, Officer Candidate School Phase one support team operations, and Southwest Border Mission support.

Taylor's awards and decorations include Kansas Army Achievement Ribbon, Award of Driver Badge w/ "W" Device, Kansas State Service Ribbon, and Iowa State Service Ribbon.

Among Taylor's many civilian accomplishments include being a mentor for Iowa Wesleyan University, Ethical Perspectives Domestic Violence/Mental Health TV Panelist, Cedar Rapids NAACP Branch Secretary/Freedom Fund Banquet Chair/Youth Advisor/Labor and Industry participant, African American Family Preservation and Resource Committee event contributor/organizer, African American Professionals participant, Executive Board Member for the American Association of University Women Cedar Rapids Chapter, Affordable Care Act Chair and Co-Chair for the Regional Health and Equity Council in association with the National Partnership for Action, and active praise and worship leader at New City Cedar Rapids Church.

Taylor currently resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with her husband, Brian, and a son, Bryson. They enjoy family walks, going to jump parks, live music, gaming, and community service.

SPOTLIGHT

Marion Whicker '84

2021 Distinguished Alumni Award

Marion Whicker '84 was born in Dearborn, Michigan. She was the tenth of eleven children (8 girls/3 boys) born to Raymond and Ruth Whicker. Whicker attended Edsel Ford High School where she played softball and basketball. Her athletics career continued as she coached baseball, softball, and basketball for the Dearborn Recreation Department. Whicker has resided in Trenton, Michigan, for the past 25 years. She is married to Kellee Kubany and has one daughter, Mackenzie, 22.

Whicker attended Iowa Wesleyan from 1980 - 1984. During her college years, she played four years of softball, three years of basketball, tutored for three years, and worked in the Business Department Office. She lived in S-T Hall all four years of her college career. Whicker also worked at the Media Production Studios assisting with video production for Metromail and Blue Bird Corporations.

Whicker fondly remembers the wide variety of opportunities for new experiences during her time at Iowa Wesleyan. "During my four years at Iowa Wesleyan, I was fortunate enough to be able to play two different sports, work on building videos for companies, and help students through

the tutoring program," Whicker said. "I know each of these experiences better prepared me for my career."

Whicker is currently employed at the U.S. Army Tank-automotive Command (TACOM) and has worked for the TACOM for over 36 years. She began her career with the TACOM in September 1984 as a Supply Management Intern and moved through various leadership positions in Logistics Management.

As a member of the Army's Senior Executive Service in June 2018, Whicker was selected as TACOM's Executive Director, Integrated Logistics Support. She is currently serving on a detail assignment to Washington, D.C., as the Deputy Chief for Supply, Production & Distribution for the COVID-19 Vaccination effort. She has been assigned to this effort since late May 2020.

Whicker's advice to young alumni is to "always remember, your purpose in life is much bigger than anyone's opinion of you. Therefore, as you move on to the next chapter in your life, do what you love and love what you do."



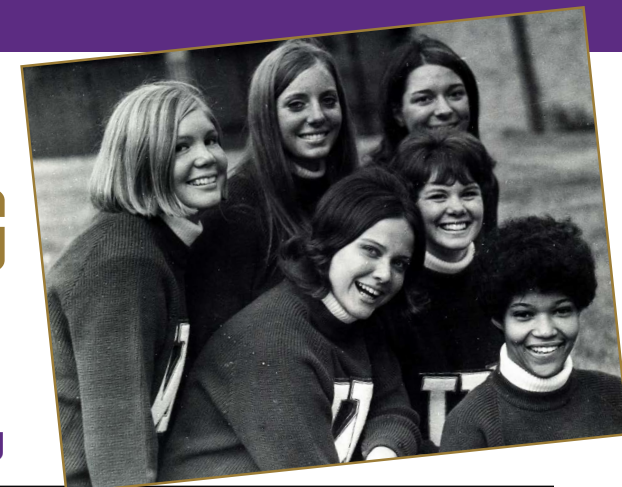
All 2020-2021 Alumni Awards
will be presented at

2021 HOMECOMING

October 1-3, 2021

See page 26 for a schedule.

Registration opens July 1 at iw.edu/homecoming



Diane Davis

New Director for Alumni Engagement



Iowa Wesleyan University is excited to announce Diane Davis as the newest member of the IW community. Diane began serving as the Director for Alumni Engagement on April 12, 2021.

Although Diane was born in Fremont, California, her parents returned to Mount Pleasant to be close to their families. Following graduation from Mount Pleasant High School, Diane attended Luther College. Thereafter, she had a 30-year career in Operations and Human Resources with Walmart Logistics.

We asked Diane a few questions to help you get to know her a little bit better:

What do you hope to accomplish as the new Director for Alumni Engagement?

I look forward to connecting and reconnecting with IW alums. I want to enhance the alumni experience by involving those around me as well as current IW students. I plan to do so by creating an atmosphere of reciprocating dialogues and efforts. One of my philosophies is to be a servant leader while providing an exceptional customer experience. More than anything, I want to work hard yet have fun!

What brought you back to Mount Pleasant?

After relocating to the southwest, I missed the small town, friendly atmosphere of Mount Pleasant. There is a strong sense of community and camaraderie in Mount Pleasant as well as Southeast Iowa and I want to continue to be a part of it. Most importantly, my family and lifelong friends are here so I am looking forward to seeing all of them on a regular basis. I especially want to watch my new granddaughter, Elle, grow up!

What is your favorite thing about Iowa Wesleyan University?

My favorite thing about Iowa Wesleyan University is the Chapel as I have attended numerous concerts and events through the years. I admire the stained glass windows and was real pleased when the building was renovated!

Please feel free to contact Diane at 319.385.6215 or diane.davis@iw.edu.

You're Invited! This Summer: Community Conversations

Watch for the official schedule release!

Mingle and visit in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere at a variety of in-person venues. You can anticipate hearing from President Plunkett, Cabinet members and more, and give your input and thoughts on our next strategic plan.

Madison Pullis

New Director of The Harlan-Lincoln House



The Harlan-Lincoln House is pleased to welcome a new Director, Madison Pullis. Madison's variety of experience includes positions at the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri and the Smithsonian National Museum of

Natural History. She describes herself as "a bit of a know-it-all" growing up, which translated into her interest in a wide variety of subjects. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology at Iowa State University, and completed an internship at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, VA, where she says she "spent most of [her] summer cleaning dinosaur bones and talking to visitors about the Jurassic period." That internship solidified her passion for a career in the museum sector. She completed her Master's degree in Anthropology and Museum Training at George Washington University in May 2020, lived through a pandemic, and joined the Iowa Wesleyan team in May 2021. We asked Madison a few questions, but if you'd like to reach out, you can contact her at madison.pullis@iw.edu

What do you hope to accomplish as the new Director for the Harlan-Lincoln House?

As the new Director of the Harlan-Lincoln House, one of my first goals is to rebuild the relationship between the Harlan-Lincoln House and the community it serves. Due to the pandemic, the museum had to remain closed to the public for several months this past year. Though people could admire the house from afar (so yellow! so pretty!), really receiving the full scope of the house and the impact of the stories it contains was severely limited. While I hope to host various events and programs through the museum, I would love to (re)cultivate and maintain the relationship the public has with this historic house. There is so much history and information within the Harlan-Lincoln House walls waiting to be shared. That history relates to interesting past and current events at Iowa Wesleyan, Mount Pleasant, Southeast Iowa, and beyond.

What do you most appreciate about being back in Mount Pleasant?

One of the things I most appreciate about being back in Mt. Pleasant is that while things stay the same (and hopefully never change, Pad Thai!), improvements are continuously being made throughout the town. While I appreciate the new restaurants and businesses that have opened and updates to buildings or areas since I've been gone, I also appreciate that those improvements mean there are people who truly care about the community we share. I have lived in many places, and there's not always the same level of thoughtfulness and consideration about the town and community that I have experienced while living in Mount Pleasant.

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1 IW.EDU/HOMECOMING

2021 HOMECOMING October 1-3, 2021

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

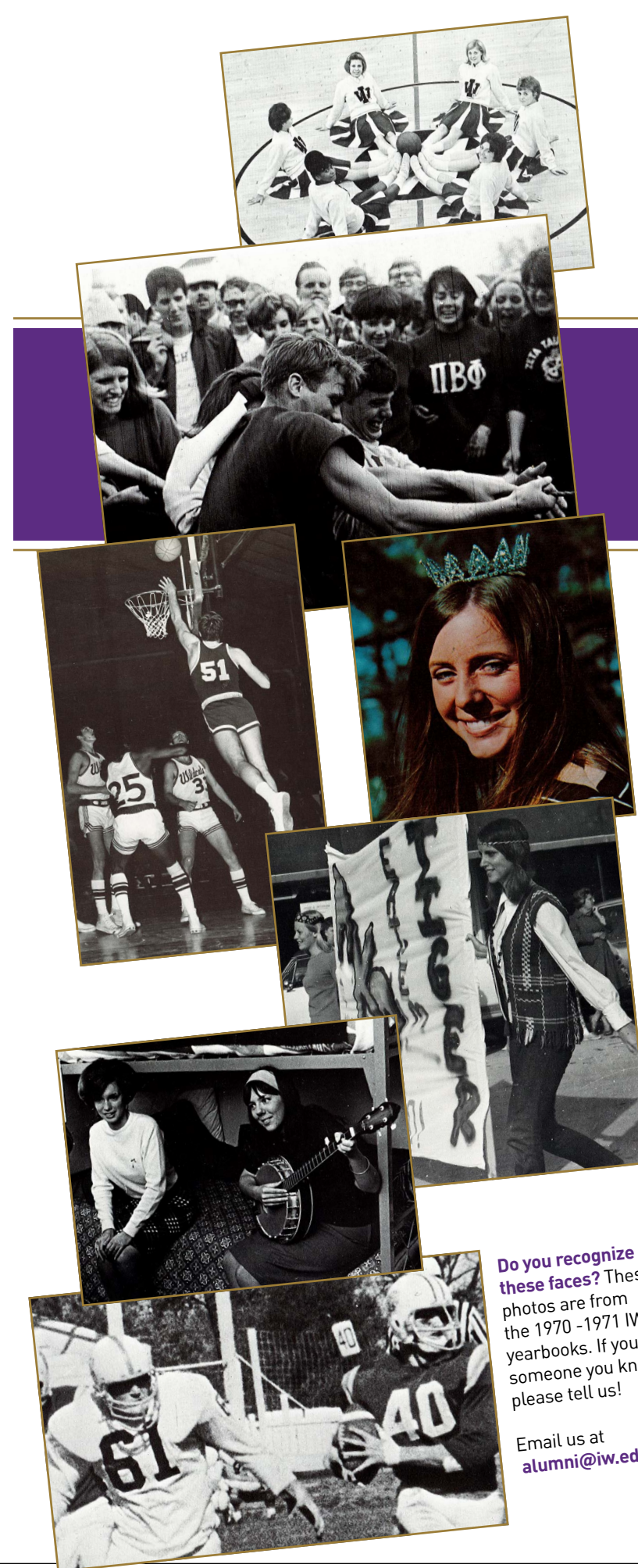
- 4:00 pm** **Classes of '70 and '71 Reception**
Members of the 50-Year Classes of '70 and '71 are invited to a special reception at the President's residence.
- 5:00 pm** **Homecoming Kickoff BBQ**
- 6:00 pm** **Men's and Women's Alumni Basketball Games**
Cheer on the alumni teams in Ruble Arena.
- 6:00 pm** **Alumni Reception**
Join your friends for drinks and comradery during and after the games in the Tiger Suite.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 10:00 am** **Homecoming Parade**
- 10:30 am** **Willis Wrestling Facility Dedication**
- 11:30 am** **Tailgate Lunch and Tiger Fan Zone**
Mapleleaf Athletic Complex
- 1:00 pm** **Homecoming Football Game**
- 4:00 pm** **Choir Reunion**
Old Main
- 6:00 pm** **Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet**
Social Hall
Featuring steak and shrimp!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 10:00 am** **Sunday Worship Service**
University Chapel
Featuring special music from the IW Choir.
Alumni are welcome to join in!
- 11:00 am** **Community Brunch**
Social Hall



Do you recognize these faces? These photos are from the 1970-1971 IW yearbooks. If you see someone you know, please tell us!

Email us at alumni@iw.edu.

PURPLE & WHITE

IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

601 North Main Street
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641



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**Wherever you roam,
IW can stay right with you.**

- Reconnect with IW friends
- Get up to the minute news
- Never miss another event

COMING TO HOMECOMING 2021?



Download the IW App to reminisce
with classmates and get the latest
schedule of events right in your paw!

