Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dirk Behrends ’87
Normal, IL
AABD Committees: Greek Alumni Network, Nomination and Awards Committee, Pride Alumni Community.
Why I serve on the AABD: to improve access to quality education for marginalized/underrepresented students. I established the Dirk L. Behrends endowed scholarship (2016)
Major/Activities at IWU: English/Sigma Chi, Cross Country, Track and Field, YMCA Aquatics Director
Hometown and other places lived: Delavan, IL, also Chicago, Los Angeles
Profession and Current Work: VP, Association Enterprise Solutions, Abila
Hobbies/Interests: Improving access to quality healthcare, legal services and education for marginalized and underrepresented groups, through organizations such as Howard Brown Health Center, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN), Lambda Legal, Human Rights Campaign, and the Chicago Public School System
Other Activities: Chocolate lab, Gabe, international travel, world’s cultures and religions, and proud Godfather to Connor, Landon and Ethan.

Al Black ’79
Washington, IL
AABD Committees: Regional Alumni Chapters Committee (REG)
Why I serve on the AABD: Interested in giving back to IWU as I have filled various roles over the years including Class newsletter editor & Class Agent
Major/Activities at IWU: Dodds Hall President (2 years), Interhall Council, Homecoming Committee, Intramural Basketball Official & Basketball (4 years)
Profession and Current Work: Entertainment, Media & Telecommunications - Director of Business Services, AT&T
Current Employer: AT&T
Hobbies/Interests: Fitness, Sports, investments (preparing for retirement)
Other Activities: Grandparent Club - BEST.GIG.EVER. - Heart of Illinois United Way Marketing Committee (also past Board Member & Campaign Cabinet Chair), coordinates Day of Caring events bringing together teams of volunteers from AT&T throughout the year on a variety of projects, AT&T Junior Achievement Job Shadow ASPIRE volunteer, past chair of the Peoria Business Academy and served as a mentor at Peoria (Central) High School, coached youth basketball and baseball for the Washington Recreation Association, as well as soccer for the youth programs of the Washington Park District
Hometown: Prospect High School, Mt. Prospect, IL
Claudia Brogan '77
Decatur, GA
AABD Committee: Council for IWU Women, Wesleyan Fund Committee

Why I serve on the AABD: I love learning about all the working-pieces at IWU and hearing about how things fit together. I feel challenged and informed and motivated, getting to know these fellow alum-leaders. I am celebrating the excellent experiences I had at IWU, and the positive ways that being an IWU alum has served me well

Major/ Activities at IWU: Theater, Education, English/ Resident Assistant 2 years
Hometown: Mattoon, Illinois
Profession/Current Work: Independent Trainer, Group Facilitator, Speaker Coach
Current Employer: Self-employed
Hobbies/Interests: Have worked with Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, as adult education curriculum coordinator in church settings, piano, community theater, adopting rescue pooches (“Who rescued whom?”)

Debbie Burt-Frazier '75
Maiden Name: Debra R. Burt
Dayton, OH
AABD Committee: Minority Alumni Network (The Network), Class Newsletter Editor Committee

Why I serve on the AABD: Even before becoming an IWU Loyalty Award winner (2002), I have enjoyed promoting and working to serve my alma mater. I am a charter member of The IWU Council for Women and that, too, focuses on alumni and current female students of Wesleyan. I love IWU, and strive to stay involved as best I can

Major/ Activities at IWU: English, Journalism / The Argus (editor-in-chief), BSU (President, Director of Cultural Affairs), Liturgical Dance Troupe, Speech Team, Phi Kappa Delta, Pep Squad, Resident Assistant - 3yrs., Intramural Basketball, WESN Radio, Exploratory Theatre and Student Recruiting/Admissions

Hometown High School: Harlan High School alums, class of 1971
Profession/Current Work: Instructor
Current Employer: Central State University College, Wilberforce, OH
Hobbies/Interests: Community Theater, Reading, Travelling, TRIO Upward Bound Program
Volunteer Activities: Minority Alumni Board of IWU, United Methodist Women (President of local chapter @ Faith United Methodist Church, also a Trustee there).

Paige Buschman ‘17
Normal, IL
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dave Darling ’79
Tinley Park, IL
**AABD Committee:** Minority Alumni Network (The Network), Alumni Admissions Advisory Council, Regional Alumni Chapters Committee
Why I serve on the AABD: To give back and serve IWU in any way possible
**Major/Activities at IWU:** Political Science, Spanish, Cross Country & Track letter winner, Intramural Basketball Champions
**Hometown/high school:** Princeton High School or District 230 High Schools (Victor J. Andrew, Sandburg, Stagg)
**Professional/Current Work:** Attorney
**Current Employer:** Stone & Johnson, Chtd
**Hobbies/Interests:** All sports, traveling, gardening, live concerts, relaxing with family & friends, mentoring students
**Volunteer Activities:** St. Stephen Finance Committee Member, St. Stephen Usher & volunteer worker, IWU “Tu Universidad” alumni representative IWU Alumni Admissions Counsel Member, Board Contact for IWU “Network” and Admissions Dept., IWU Regional Board Member, Former High School District 230 Student Services Board Member for 6 years.

Marilynn Graves ’79
Palatine, IL
**AABD Committee:** Council for IWU Women. Why I serve on the AABD: I am very appreciative of my IWU education and experience. I strongly believe my ability to be an insightful leader is the direct result of the critical thinking and discussion skills I developed while in a liberal arts environment. As a result, I want to ensure that the value of an IWU legacy is shared and passed on to prospective students and alumni
**Major/Activities at IWU:** History major; Editor of the yearbook, folk dance group, Phi Gamma Nu.
**Hometown and other places lived:** Since graduation I have lived in Chicago, Inverness, Cincinnati and Palatine. I currently reside in our Palatine ‘retirement cottage’, a ranch house that has been under renovation for three years
**Profession and Current Work:** The majority of my work experience has been in Banking. My responsibilities have ranged from Finance Analyst to Commercial Lender to Senior Manager of Leadership and Development. Currently I am the Principal of MJG Insights, a boutique consulting business that focuses or organizational efficiency and leadership development. Our niche is young professional and emerging leader development
**Current Employer:** MJG Insights, LLC.
**Hobbies/Interests:** My main interests are gardening, classical piano, tennis and needlework. While not a music major, I did continue to take piano lessons while at IWU. I am an avid gardener with a love for perennial gardens. I have legacy plants that go back to my grandparents’ gardens
**Other Activities:** Over the years I have been actively involved in school, community and faith based groups. Most recently I have been chair for a church finance committee during a $5.5 million expansion.
Meg Howe ’05  
Chicago, IL  
**AABD Committee:** Nomination and Awards Committee, Regional Alumni Chapters Committee  
**Why I serve on the AABD:** My time at IWU is a critical piece of my "story"; it provided me with a base infrastructure on how to succeed in a personal and professional sphere. I believe that to whom much is given, much is asked and because of that It is important for me to give back to the institution that was my support system at such a critical time in life and help other alums reconnect to their IWU experiences  
**Major/Activities at IWU:** Business Administration / Volleyball, sigma kappa, economic society, college republicans  
**Hometown High School:** Chicago, Dallas, Indiana  
**Profession/Current Work:** Regional Director - Sales & Operations  
**Current Employer:** Paycom Software Inc

Scott Huch ’86  
Falls Church, VA  
**AABD Committee:** President  
**Why I serve on the AABD:** Illinois Wesleyan University is the most significant institution that I have ever been — or ever will be — part of. IWU changed my life. I see an IWU education as a force for good in this world. I want to do all I can to help others like me get access to it, in order to help make the world a better place. I want to help IWU be strong and attract the best students and professors. In my view, the involvement of engaged alumni is absolutely critical to making IWU the best it can be. I see my role on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as a "servant-leader" — our purpose is to show our fellow alumni how they can be engaged in a wide variety of ways to help IWU accomplish its mission. Long after I'm gone, whatever I've helped Illinois Wesleyan accomplish will remain and that feels great  
**Major/Activities at IWU:** Political Science (Minor: French)/ Phi Gamma Delta, Collegiate Choir, Student Senate, Phi Eta Sigma, Green Medallion, Pi Sigma Alpha, Alpha Phi Omega, Washington Semester in Foreign Policy, Wesleyana  
**Hometown High School:** Chester High School, Chester, Illinois  
**Profession/Current Work:** Political advertising & fundraising  
**Current Employer:** Direct Creative, Inc.  
**Hobbies/Interests:** I enjoy current affairs, reading, music, fine art, live theater, train travel, cooking, gardening (tomatoes!), and languages  
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Que Jackson ’21
IWU Student Senate President

Yolanda Juarez-Sotelo ’17
Chicago, IL
AABD Committees: Minority Alumni Network (The Network)
Why I serve on the AABD: My time at IWU prepared me for the life post grad in the best way possible. I met many caring/giving/compassionate alums during my time at IWU and through them I have found my cheerleaders - they have helped me to believe in myself and my abilities to succeed. By remaining connected to IWU I hope to provide that same experience to other students
Major/Activities at IWU: Mathematics; SALSA, RHA, ORL, CIA
Hometown and High School: Chicago, Jones College Prep
Profession and Current Work: Marketing Strategy and Analytics
Current Employer: Access2Insight
Hobbies/Interests: I love reading, running, playing with my pup, Sloann, and watching Grey’s Anatomy
Other Volunteer Activities: Anti-cruelty society

Alan Leahigh ’67
Geneva, IL
AABD Committee: Class Newsletter Editor Committee, Greek Alumni Network
Why I serve on the AABD: Pride in the University. Desire to keep its reputation and its economic health strong
Major/Activities at IWU: Political Science, Journalism / Acacia Fraternity
Hometown: Plainfield, IL, 50 years since IWU
Profession/Current Work: (1) Health care association management, (2) public relations firm management, (3) newspaper reporter and editor
Current Employer: Self-employed consultant
Current Hometown: Geneva, IL
Hobbies/Interests: Reading, non-competitive bicycling, travel (especially road trips) and model railroads
Volunteer Activities: Church activities, Feed My Starving Children, Local history, museum, IWU Alumni Board
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Preslav Mantchev '17
Palatine, IL

**AABD Committees:** Alumni Admissions Advisory Council, Minority Alumni Network (The Network), Wesleyan Fund Committee

**Why I serve on the AABD:** My 4 years at Illinois Wesleyan made for the most transformative time of my entire life. Such an experience would not have been possible without the abundant support of alumni along the way. From the day I received my acceptance letter to the day I graduated, Illinois Wesleyan alumni funded my scholarships, motivated me to excel in class, and opened my eyes to the world of opportunities available after graduation. I now wish to give back, and use my position on the Board of Directors to give current Titans equal - if not better - opportunities and success.

**Major/Activities at IWU:** Political Science, International Studies double major; Phi Gamma Delta, College Democrats, Amnesty International, Peace Garden, Omicron Delta Epsilon

**Profession/Current Work:** J.D. Candidate

**Current Employer:** University of Illinois College of Law

**Hobbies/Interests:** Exercise, photography, cooking, chess, following sports

Beth Messina ’81
Buffalo Grove, IL

**AABD Committees:** Alumni Admissions Advisory Council.

**Why I serve on the AABD:** I loved my years at IWU! I hope to instill that same enthusiasm to other alumni and prospective students.

**Major/Activities at IWU:** Nursing; Tennis Team, Alpha Tau Delta

**Profession and Current Work:** Nursing

**Current Employer:** Northwest Community Healthcare

**Hobbies/Interests:** Golf, Tennis, Watching the Chicago Cubs and Blackhawks

**Other Activities:** I volunteer at the food pantry and PDO (parents day out) program at Kingswood United Methodist Church

Mary Miller ’07
Schaumburg, IL

**AABD Committees:** Minority Alumni Network

**Major/Activities at IWU:** Business

**Current Work:** Higher Education

**Current Employer:** American Intercontinental University
Tom Monken ‘92
Casey, IL
AABD committee: Alumni Admissions Advisory Council
Why I serve on the AABD: Help reconnect alumni to IWU, improve legacy student recruitment, and develop a legacy student board to involve these current students with alumni and recruitment of high school legacy students
Major/Activities at IWU: Business Administration/ Football, Track, Ambassador’s Club
Profession/Current Work: Insurance
Current Employer: Staley Insurance Agency
Hobbies/Interests: Head Football Coach at Casey-Westfield High School, coach other youth sports, running, cross-training, spending time with my family, active in my church

Adebola (Ade) Olayinka ‘11
AABD committee: Alumni Admissions Advisory Council, Council for IWU Women
Why I serve on the AABD: My time at IWU was a dream come true, and I want to make sure every former, current, and prospective student finds their dream too
Major / Activities at IWU: Economics & International Studies / Alpha Phi Omega, Ambassador’s Club, Economics Society, IWU London Program
Hometown High School: Woodbury High School, Woodbury, MN
Profession/Current Work: PhD Student
Current Employer: Duke University
Hobbies/Interests: Traveling, baking, cooking, eating out, films, reading, and sleeping
Other Volunteer Activities: Council for IWU Women and Mercy International Mission Nigeria

Ed Pacchetti ’91
Washington, DC
AABD committee: Alumni Academic Resource Council, Alumni Academic Advisory Committee
Major/Activities at IWU: Psychology; minor- Political Science/ Vice-President and President of Student Senate and a charter member of the Acacia Fraternity
Profession/Current Work: Director of Customer Analytics for the Customer Experience Office of Federal Student Aid
Current Employer: U.S. Department of Education
Hobbies/Interests: annual New Year's Eve party, hanging out with friends, reading, spending time with his Boston Terrier named Rocky, visits his nieces and nephew in Illinois and Texas often
Other Volunteer Activities: member of the Pride Alumni Community (PAC) and is Co-
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Rachel Paturi '13
Irvine, CA

Teddy Petrov '10
Chicago, IL

Desiree Quizon-Colquitt '89
Normal, IL
**AABD Committee:** Alumni Admissions Advisory Council, Minority Alumni Network (The Network), Wesleyan Fund Committee
**Why I serve on the AABD:** I serve on the AABD to give back to IWU. I did not realize or appreciate the benefits of a liberal arts education until I entered the workforce. I serve on the AABD to promote IWU to perspective students and their parents and encourage alumni to donate their time, treasure or talent. I would like to see IWU have a more diverse and global student population
**Major/Activities at IWU:** Biology/ Circle K, Student Senate, Pep Band, Concert Band, Beta Beta Beta, Alpha Mu Gamma, Pfeiffer Hall President, Resident Hall Association
**Hometown High School:** Pana Senior High School
**Profession/Current Work:** Director, Strategic Alliances
**Current Employer:** BioVectra Inc.
**Hobbies/Interests:** Travel, art and history museums, reading, aerobics, fitness, dogs
**Other Volunteer Activities:** Cures Within Reach; Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington/Normal; Drug, Chemical and Associated Technologies Association, Healthcare Businesswomen Association

Jim Richter ’93
Minneapolis, MN
**AABD committee:** Pride Alumni Community
**Major/Activities at IWU:** Natural Science/ Catholic Newman Organization, Chapel Choir, Habitat for Humanity, and GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Wesleyan) as well as the Career Center, member of Theta Chi fraternity, served as a houseboy for the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority
**Profession/Current Work:** Fellow in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
**Current Employer:** the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Hobbies/Interests: spending time with his three schnauzers (Archie, Buddy, and Charlie), enjoys yoga, gardening, dog-walking, chocolate chip cookie baking, word games, and whistling, he travels regularly to spend time with his family on Chicago's south side

Other Volunteer Activities: member of the Hope and Healing Committee of the Archdiocese of Chicago, founding member of Healing Voices, member of the College of American Pathologists, Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, and United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

Molly Rollings '99
Champaign, IL

AABD committee: Council for IWU Women, Nomination and Awards Committee
Why I serve on the AABD: I want to help students achieve their goals
Major / Activities at IWU: Risk Management/ Basketball, Track, RIMS Society
Hometown High School: Arcola High School
Profession/Current Work: Sales Executive, Insurance
Current Employer: Diamond Bros Insurance, LLC
Hobbies/Interests: cooking, gardening, reading
Other Volunteer Activities: Home builders Association of East Central IL, ABC of Illinois, Habitat for humanity, Feeding America and Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research

Katherine Serrano ‘86
Chicago, IL

Ryan Siemers ’98
Chicago, IL

AABD Committees: Pride Alumni Community
Why I serve on the AABD: Wanting to give back to my alma mater and represent LGBTQ alums
Major/Activities at IWU: Biology; Sigma Pi
Hometown and High School: Paw Paw High School
Profession and Current Work: Healthcare Consulting
Current Employer: Premier, Inc
Other Volunteer Activities: Howard Brown Health Centers, Board of Directors
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Amy Tenhouse '97
Arlington, VA
AABD Committee: Alumni Admissions Advisory Council, Governance
Why I serve on the AABD: I wanted to stay connected to IWU and help strengthen the university so current students can have an amazing experience just like I did
Major/Activities at IWU: Political Science & History/Volleyball, Student Senate, Senior Class President, Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Ambassadors Club
Hometown /High School: Camp Point, Illinois
Profession/Current Work: Government Affairs
Current Employer: Molina Healthcare
Hobbies/Interests: Volunteering, Playing with my 4 year old son, Traveling
Other Volunteer Activities: Jaycees, IWU Washington DC Regional President, Matt 25 Thrift Store, DC Diaper Bank

John Thiel '66
Sun City, AZ
AABD committee: Greek Alumni Network
Why I serve on the AABD: Several of my family members and friends attended IWU before me and they always spoke highly of the University. At IWU I not only learned, but also established lifelong relationships. I serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors to fulfill that role for current students and alumni
Major/Activities at IWU: Business Administration, Men's Glee Club, Acacia Fraternity, Cross Country and Track
Profession/Current Work: Retired GE Finance Mgr. and CPA
Current Employer: Retired from John Thiel, CPA, PC
Hobbies/Interests: Past member of the Barbershop Choruses in Bloomington IL and Tucson, AZ. Attend symphony concerts and theatre productions. Web site design, maintenance, and pro bono work for not-for-profit organizations. Hosting IWU alumni events at our home on Dawn Lake
Other Volunteer Activities: Past Treasurer IWU Acacia Corp. Board, Received the Order of Pythagoras for accomplishments on Acacia Board, Social Chairman of the GE Employees’ Club, Past President of the Dawn Lake Homeowners’ Association, Inc, Board Member of General Electric Retirees’ Club of Arizona

Dr. Derrick Tillman-Kelly '09
Columbus, OH
Major/Activities at IWU: Biology; minor in Cognitive Science. Worked in the financial aid office. Member of Student Senate, Black Student Union, Kappa Alpha Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Orientation leader for Turning Titan new student orientation and the then-ALANA student orientation, and a member of the All-University Judiciary Committee
Profession/Current Work: University Innovation Alliance Fellow at the Ohio State University
Hobbies/Interests: Singing, traveling, baking (especially cupcakes), member of several choirs and Sunday School teacher at his church in Columbus
Other Volunteer Activities: Secretary, IWU AABD, Co-chair of the Pride Alumni
Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors

Community, on leadership team of The Network, formerly the Minority Alumni Network (MAN) Dr. Derrick Tillman-Kelly serves as the director of the UIA Fellows Program and Network Engagement for the University Innovation Alliance (UIA). In this role, he works with the UIA leadership team to advance the UIA's mission by partnering with member institutions to identify and develop emerging higher education leaders ready to support institutional transformation with the goal of eliminating race/ethnicity, first generation status, and socioeconomic status as predictors of student success and completion. Derrick also serves as Co-Principal Investigator and Research Lead for the Louis Stokes Midwest Regional Center of Excellence for Broadening Participation in STEM (LSMRCE).

---

Kira (Larson) West ’86
Vienna, VA

AABD Committees: Governance Committee, Wesleyan Fund Committee

Why I serve on the AABD: To help equip IWU with every tool it needs to educate future students and promote the mission of the School

Major/Activities at IWU: Social Science; Collegiate Choir, Kappa Delta

Profession and Current Work: Criminal Defense Attorney

Current Employer: Self

Hobbies/Interests: Hiking, Gardening, Traveling, & Spending time with family

Other Activities: Vienna Baptist Church, Pastor Relations Team; Board Member, Criminal Law and Individual Rights Section of the DC Bar