

PRIDE ALUMNI COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020 | Issue 5

*Connecting LGBTQIA+ alumni, friends, and
allies to Illinois Wesleyan University*

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ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
PRIDE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAC CO - CHAIRS

The year 2020 has been a remarkable and full of changes. We don't need to tell you all of the ways that life has changed as a result of Covid-19 because they are that pervasive. For some people, that change may have been a transition to working from home, or a change in employment status all together, or even the loss of a family member.

Additionally, our nation stands at a political crossroads, one that affects us as an LGBTQ+ community, but may affect those of us holding multiple, intersecting oppressed identities even more. Regardless of political affiliation--and we acknowledge that our community is home to diverse political thought--this election season has surely caused its fair share of suffering. For some of us it has caused deep rifts and, perhaps, changes in our communities, in our families and among our friends. For many of us, the struggle for human rights is something we live every day. And, as always we are all going through personal changes and challenges.

While change can be stressful, it can also be positive. Pride Alumni Community is no exception to the rule! We want to share with you all that several folks have joined the Pride Alumni Community as leaders and shakers:

Hannah Dhue '15 & Jordan Kuhns '13
Communications Committee, Newsletter Co-Chairs

Luis Cabrales-Vasques '15
Communications Committee, Social Media Chair

Avery Amerson '17 & Cadyn Williamson '18
Events Committee Co-chairs

Alanna Scogin '20 & Mathew Murray '06
At-Large Members

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PAC CO - CHAIRS

We are so grateful to get the opportunity to work with these folks as PAC seeks to revisit and re-establish its mission, vision and goals, and revamp its programming to promote itself as a gathering body for LGBTQ+ Titans, students, alumni and friends alike.

At the core of our mission, and this message, is the intention of love and support. Pride Alumni Community and, more aptly, the people who make it what it is, are here for you as you navigate the remainder of 2020 and beyond. Please know that no matter what you're going through or how you're feeling, we are here to listen, we are here to build community with you, we are here to represent you and your interests to the University. We do so proudly and with great respect.

We hope that this edition of the PAC Newsletter can bring you some joy and we hope that however you feel, you feel free to share your thoughts about it with us!

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

Paige Buschman '17

Jim Richter '93

Pride Alumni Community Executive Co-Chairs

P.S. Feel free to contact us anytime at pbuschma@iwu.edu or jrichter316@gmail.com.

ANNUAL GIVING RECAP

The Pride Alumni Community came together this past fiscal year (August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020), as it does every year, to demonstrate exceptional philanthropic stewardship and send a strong message to LGBTQ+ titans that they matter and are supported. Here's a summary of what we accomplished:

PAC GIVING CIRCLE



**\$7,069
RAISED**



**TWENTY-SIX
DONORS**

2

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**



EMMETT AGTING



ORION CAPELLA

PAC ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



**\$1,522
AWARDED**

JASPER NOECKER

**SEVENTY-EIGHT
PEOPLE
RAISED \$29,020
IN 2019**

DARCY L. GREDER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



**\$25,839
RAISED**



**SIXTY-FIVE
DONORS**



**FULLY
FUNDED**

HOMECOMING WRAP-UP

In the true spirit of 2020, IWU's Homecoming looked a bit different this year. But not even social distancing could break up our school spirit – in fact, this year managed to bring us even closer. By offering exclusively virtual events for the first time ever, students and alumni alike were able to connect like never before. Whether you tuned in for a beautiful brunch demo starring David “Saga Dave” Nicholson and PAC’s very own Paige Buschman ’17, a star-studded living room chat with Richard and Sharon Jenkins ’69, or shared in silent applause at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony, there was



Paige Buschman '17 and “Saga Dave” Nicholson
Photograph credit: Nickolas Helten



Chris and Aaron Woodstein - visit Facebook post [here](#)

something special for all to enjoy. Homecoming attendees had the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Day of Service, as well as a "Tag Your Roommate" social media challenge, featuring beautiful photos and stories like [Chris and Aaron's](#), engaging IWU friends new and old. With such a successful turnout, Homecoming 2020 seems to have paved the way for future events, opening up the virtual world for increased attendance across the globe. To catch any of these fabulous events you may have missed in October, check out [IWU's YouTube channel](#), the [Alumni Associations' recap](#), or browse [#IllinoisWesleyanHomecoming](#) on social media.

KUDOS TO SAGA DAVE

David “Saga Dave” Nicholson has been a fixture of Illinois Wesleyan for the past two decades. No matter the day, task, or situation, his smile and laugh are infectious and sure to brighten the room and the days of those around him. After 27 years with Sodexo and 20 years at IWU, his position was discontinued. To share with Dave our love, support, and best wishes, we have put together a Kudoboard. Please follow [this link](#) to leave a message of appreciation for Dave and wish him well in his next endeavor.



PAC MOVIE NIGHT



Join the Pride Alumni Community for a virtual movie screening and discussion on **Friday, December 11**. The movie watch party begins at 5 p.m. CT and a discussion to follow at 7 p.m. CT. Our flick pick is ***Moonlight*** (2016), a drama looking at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young black man growing up in Miami. His journey is guided by the kindness, support, and love of the community that helps raise him. *Moonlight* is available on Netflix and will be streamed with the Teleparty extension ([Available here](#)). You are welcome to watch the movie in your own time through another streaming service or during the watch party. [Please register here!](#)

FAREWELL TO ADRIANE POWELL



For many PAC members, Adriane Powell (pictured) has been the welcoming face at our events, the force and talent behind the biennial summit, homecoming brunch, and occasional gatherings in Chicago and Bloomington-Normal, and stalwart supporter and cheerleader for PAC interests and efforts over the last decade. As the staff liaison for PAC, we have enjoyed her insightful and unwavering support. Her good humor, gentle reminders and exceptional organizational skills have made her the perfect collaborator: she keeps volunteers on tasks and gets stuff done! Not surprisingly, given her abundant talents and sparkling personality, there are others who also want to work with Adriane. She has accepted a position at a local company, and will be staying in Bloomington, but leaving IWU. Her last day was November 13.

To be sure, there has been no better friend to PAC than Adriane, and I am not exactly sure how we will navigate her departure, but I know that our mission and alliance with the university has never been more important or relevant than it is today. Adriane and I have worked closely together over the last decade. While I knew we couldn't have her forever, I'll admit that another 10 years would have been welcome.

Paige and I spoke with Adriane about this announcement, and she shared this:

"It is with mixed emotions that, after nearly eleven years working at Illinois Wesleyan, I move on to other opportunities. It has been my honor and privilege to be the liaison for the Pride Alumni Community since 2012. I want to thank you for sharing your stories about your experiences at Illinois Wesleyan..."

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FAREWELL TO ADRIANE POWELL

With humility and admiration, and alongside treasured alumni and colleagues, I feel fortunate to be a small part of the work to shape programming, provide opportunities for connections and shepherd scholarships for the LGBTQ+ TGNC community. A special thanks goes out to the PAC chairs and co-chairs that I've worked with during my time, Paige Buschman, Josh Butts, Rachel Paturi, Jim Richter, and Derrick Tillman-Kelly. The ways in which you and all Titan alumni fight for what is right and just, teamed with your dedication and loyalty to IWU, is inspiring. I will always treasure the friendships formed here and hope to continue to be in touch. You truly are the best."

Adriane, right back atcha! You have been an amazing collaborator and your contributions and commitment to PAC's initiatives cannot be overstated. You have helped us develop our strategic initiatives, promote philanthropy, including several endowed scholarships, and advocated for PAC on campus and in the community.

While you will be missed, we wish you much success and happiness in your next endeavor. Your new colleagues are fortunate to have you, and our loss is their gain. We welcome you to the family of honorary Titan alumna, and we are so very PROUD to know you.

Jim Richter '93

Pride Alumni Community Co-Chair

Alumni Association Board of Directors Secretary