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# Voices of Our Past: Illinois Wesleyan at the Millenium

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Oral Presentation 4.1

**VOICES OF OUR PAST:  
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN AT THE MILLENNIUM**

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The advent of the new millennium is a unique moment in Illinois Wesleyan's history. Our 150<sup>th</sup> year is a time for us honor our past, while we imagine our future. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to compile the stories that Illinois Wesleyan has to offer. The Oral History Project will help us to preserve the information that resides alive and well in the memories of former teachers and staff.

Our presentation will officially present the Illinois Wesleyan Sesquicentennial Oral History Project to the campus and the community. We have interviewed three people thus far, who represent alumni, faculty and administration: Professor E. Melba Johnson-Kirkpatrick, Professor R. Dwight Drexler, and Dr. Robert Eckley. Their memories of race relations, class traditions and antics, and the development of the university illustrate Illinois Wesleyan as a dynamic institution, always changing, always growing.

The events on IWU's campus often reflected what was going on in the larger world, such as during the Depression, World War II, the civil rights' movement, and the Vietnam war. Times have changed dramatically, but there are still invaluable lessons to be learned at the feet of the "masters," those who have gone before.