

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
County of Cook and State of Illinois

Wilbur Wright College Alumnus Writer John Fountain,
Returns to Campus to Tell How Wright Helped Him Succeed

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES;

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS

Wright alumnus John Fountain, an award winning journalist and a national correspondent for *The New York Times*, returned to Wright College September 18 to share his poverty-to-plenty success story with a standing room only audience of more than 300 students, faculty and members of the community at large. The story was documented in his recent book, *True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith, Hope and Clarity*. The book is an account of the author found faith and strength to break free of the cycle of poverty and despair and rebuild his life.

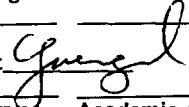
Fountain, then 21, married and a father of three, enrolled at Wright when a lack of funds forced him to drop out of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. "Wright had a reputation for being one of the best junior colleges in Chicago ... the hourlong ride on the bus each way was ... worth my while, especially if someday I might want to transfer to a four-year college," he recalled in his chapter, "The Wright Stuff." He credits Wright with helping him put his life back on track. "I pored over my textbooks, believing that they would lead me to a brighter day," he said.

The event was attended by two of Fountain's professors, now retired: Sidney Berman who taught social science and DeWitt Garrett who taught biology. Fountain praised them as his mentors in his book. "I am just as sure that my grasp of the material and enthusiasm about going to class had something to do with the professors teaching both classes."

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Wayne D. Watson
Chancellor

DISTRICT OFFICE REVIEWS & DATES SIGNED:

Purchasing Date _____	Treasurer _____	Legal _____	Board Office _____
President 	_____	_____	_____
Admin. Svcs. Date _____	Academic Aff. _____	HR _____	Finance _____
Marketing Date _____	WYCC Date _____	_____	_____