Louise Freer was a lady of dignity and pride. Her spirit continues to walk with us, her associates and students.” (Memorial to Louise Freer)

“Miss Freer has a consistent drive toward the planning for a sound liberal, and cultural education for women physical education students.” (Memorial to Louise Freer)

As a group, our goal was to capture Louise Freer’s inspiration and illustrate how it transcends into modern day. It has been an honor and a privilege to research such a fine leader.

A Modern Example of Freer’s Legacy:

Interview: Captain Kimberly Byrd, USMC NROTC Marine Officer Instructor: As an obvious role model for female empowerment what attracted you to a job predominately held by males? I originally wanted to join the FBI, I felt that the Military experience would help me get that job. But once I got into the Marine Corps I discovered that I liked the structure, I like that Marines tell you what they want there is no “beat around the bush” or the worry about being politically correct. You know what to expect, you know what the expectations are, I love the caliber of people that I work with on a daily basis. I have traveled to over 15 countries because of the Marine Corps, the values I learned in the Marines make me the person that I am today.

Past

“Freer’s academic orientation toward recreation and teacher training was the cornerstone for the success of women’s physical education programs at the university. She was perhaps best known for her dedication to increased independence and improved states of women on the UI campus during the post World War I era.” (Inside Illinois 1995)

Present

Louise Freer lived from 1884-1966 (University of Illinois Archives Website) and was instrumental in revolutionizing female fitness at the University of Illinois. She was director of the department of physical training for women from 1915-1949. One of her accomplishments includes the construction of the women’s gymnasium in early 1930’s. in 1948 the women’s gymnasium was renamed Freer Hall in her honor (Inside Illinois 1995).