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Rwanda Genocide Survivor Tells Her Story to Students in Edgar

Posted: 4:16 PM May 19, 2008

Last Updated: 7:19 PM May 19, 2008

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When it comes to going against the odds, Immaculee Ilibagiza has persevered far beyond expectations and lives to tell about it.

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Llibagiza wrote a book describing what she endured during the 1994 Rwandan Holocaust in Africa and Fifth grade teacher at Edgar Elementary School, Colin Hanson read her inspirational story and wanted to learn more.

Hanson says, "It happened in 1994 and I was just a junior in high school and I didn't know anything about it." □

Hanson says it took a year of planning, raising money, and countless phone calls to bring Llibagiza to Wisconsin, but before her arrival Hanson and others wanted to teach their students about the Genocide and African tribal culture.

Dee Brewster, a 5th grade teacher at Edgar Elementary School says, "I was just so intrigued with it and it was an uncanny story, it was something that I thought our middle schoolers needed to hear more about."

As the students learned about Immaculee's story they realized that life here in the United States is far different then over their in Africa.

8th Grade student, Cash Johnsen says, "When the genocide was happening they had to stay inside their houses all the time trying to hide." Another 8th Grade student, Danielle Lake says, "I realized how viscous they were they dad no mercy for the people they just killed them and it was really shocking to find out people did that."

Llibagiza will present her story Tuesday night at the Wausau East High School

Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. followed by a book signing.

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