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February 10, 2009 Contact: Heather Lindquist, '09, (309) 556-3181

### Merwin and Wakeley Galleries to Host Student Art Exhibit

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University will host the 22nd Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition Tuesday, Feb. 17 through Thursday, March 5 at the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries located in the Ames School of Art (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington). An opening reception will be held at the galleries on Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 4 to 6 p.m., with an awards ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

The event and exhibit are free and open to the public.

The Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition features work of Illinois Wesleyan students who are art majors and minors. Every studio art program will be presented including painting, drawing, printmaking, graphic design, photography, ceramics, sculpture and glass.

This year's exhibition will introduce the Mayo Alumni Award, the first student exhibition award provided by an art alumnus. Michael Mayo, Class of 2002, the sponsor of the award, created it in an effort to support and stay involved with the Ames School of Art and IWU student artists. The Mayo Alumni Award, a monetary award, will be given annually to the student who demonstrates a high level of thought behind their work, exceptional desire to learn and improve, outstanding attitude and character, and leadership within the School of Art. The student will be selected by Mayo and Ames School of Art faculty.

Other awards presented at the exhibition will include the Illinois Wesleyan Hart Career Center Purchase Award and the Hansen Student Center Purchase Award. The pieces that receive these awards will be purchased and added to the art collections of the Hart Career Center and the Hansen Student Center respectively. The exhibition also features the President's Award, chosen by Illinois Wesleyan University President Richard F. Wilson, and the Director's Award, chosen by Director of the School of Art Miles Blair.

Gallery hours are as follows: Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Tuesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. There is no charge for admission to the gallery.

For additional information, contact Visiting Director Carmen Lozar at (309) 556-3391.

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