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## Senior Report

Greg Gallagher '96

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of the economics professors openly encourage the student to do a project and then don't abandon the student but stand by her and offer guidance when needed."

Typically, a student decides on a topic for his or her project and then selects a committee of faculty advisors, usually two from the major and one from outside the student's area of concentration. Weekly meetings and planning sessions are arranged by the student to inform the professors of any progress made, to get assistance, and receive constructive criticism concerning the project. Much of the student's time is spent researching at the library and reading numerous sources of useful information.

Dr. Seeborg compares it to a dissertation or master's thesis, though not as rigorous or exhaustive. He says, "It's a good opportunity to pool together in a single project a lot of what the students have learned in all of their classes." Research Honors prepares students for life in the real world where the person is given great latitude in completing tasks. In addition, the Research Honors program develops one's analytical, communicative (both oral and written), leadership, and creative skills, such attributes that are in demand after graduation.

And so, after completing the research and finishing the written report, the student is faced with one more unique aspect of the program. Before officially completing the course, the student must defend his or her project in front of the selected committee. Typically, the committee gathers in a room and the student proceeds to summarize the project. The faculty then asks the student questions in part to determine if the student fully understands the project and is capable of defending it from criticism. Finally, the student is asked to leave the room while the committee deliberates on the efficacy of the project.

If successful, the student earns the distinction of graduating with honors, but if not successful, the student still earns credit toward graduation.

Overall, Dr. Seeborg agrees it is "a very good program. It's fun to watch young people struggle and learn on the job which is an extraordinarily useful part of the education." Rocheleau would also agree. "Research Honors with its unstructured atmosphere is good experience for what I hope to be doing in the real world."

So then, Illinois Wesleyan University's Research Honors program is more than just another accolade for the student's resume but also gives confidence to the student as he/she enters life after graduation.

## Senior Report

by Greg Gallagher

**Baindu Banya** is a double major in Economics and Computer Science from Sierra Leone. She graduated after January-term and currently works in Minnesota. Baindu has plans to pursue a Ph.D. in economics with a specialty in computable general equilibrium models.

**Mehmet Besceli** is an international student from Turkey and is a double major in Economics and Accounting. Future plans include among other things a mandatory stint in the Turkish military.

**Alpna Bhatia** is an international student from India. She is a Student Assistant for the economics department who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Colorado.

**Steven Burrows** is an expert on the Major League Baseball industry having finished a

Senior Project on the subject. Steven will attend law school at the Chicago-Kent University.

**Brad Comincioli** will get married this summer and plans to work in the investment field and then go on for graduate work in the same area.

**Brandy Erdman** is a double major in Risk and Economics and probably will attend Loyola's MBA program. Brandy recently got engaged to a Wesleyan Alumnus.

**Niveditha Hastak** is an international student from India. She has a strong interest in the investment field and wants to pursue graduate work in that area.

**Matt Jontry** is an economics major who will work in the insurance industry with Country Companies before going to law school. Matt is one of the featured writers in this year's journal.

**Chris Lewis** is an Economics and Business double major. His future plans include working at the Board of Trade or the Chicago Fed and eventually obtain an MBA.

**Rob Miller** is an Economics major who will be seeking employment while staying involved with the military reserves.

**Kara Rocheleau** is a double major in Math and Economics who will finish her degree program in only three years. Kara plans on working for several years before returning to school to get an MBA.

**Dan Scholz** is a double major in Economics and Physics who will attend Washington University next fall to pursue an engineering

degree and an MBA.

**Virginia Shull** is a Political Science and Economics double major who will attend the University of Illinois Law School in the fall.

**David Taylor** is double majoring in Economics and Business. David has a job selling insurance for John Hancock in Bloomington and eventually plans on obtaining an MBA.

**Todd Whitmore** plans on pursuing a law degree or a combined law/MBA degree.

**Joshua Yount** is a double major in Political Science and Economics who will attend law school at the University of Chicago in the fall.

**Jorge Nimbriotis** is an Economics major from Ecuador who will complete his degree next December. He is interested in pursuing graduate work in the finance area. Jorge already has significant work experience in the Ecuadorian banking system.