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Garrett Rapp
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Contact: Garrett Rapp, (309) 556-3181

Illinois Wesleyan University Graduates Receive Commencement Honors

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's class of 2009 was recognized at the 159th Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 3, on the Eckley Quadrangle. During the ceremony, 14 special Commencement honors were bestowed upon students who demonstrated outstanding performance and scholastic achievement during their academic career at Illinois Wesleyan.

Jessica Pearce, a native of Schaumburg, Ill., was awarded The Hope Ellen Pape President's Club Award in the Fine Arts, which honors outstanding accomplishment in art, music or theater. Pearce graduated cum laude from the College of Fine Arts as an honors recitalist with a major in orchestral instruments, and is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society.

Amelia Benner, a native of Tuscola, Ill., was awarded The Annabelle Scrogin Anderson '36 Award, which recognizes distinguished achievement by a student in multiple fields of study. Benner graduated summa cum laude with a double major in English writing and history. A member of both the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa honor societies, Benner was also recognized at the ceremonies for her research honors work in history with the title, "Reading Between the Lines: Or, The Literary Lives of the Davis Family." Additionally, she won an honorable mention in the creative writing category of Babbitt's Prize for Short Fiction, and served as editor of the student newspaper *The Argus* and editorial assistant for the *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*.

Julie Allen, a native of Rockford, Ill., was awarded The John L. Clark Award in Literary Studies, which is granted for outstanding academic performance, particularly in historical and theory courses, and evidenced by scholarly ability and participation in the creative activities of the School of Theater Arts. Allen graduated magna cum laude with performance honors for theatre arts and a double major in English literature and theatre arts.

Kaelyn Riley, a native of Lexington, Ill., was awarded The Nikki Kaye Pape President's Club Award for Excellence in Writing, which is presented for the best selection of writing prepared during the academic year. Riley graduated magna cum laude with a double major in English writing and political science. In addition to being a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society, the Pi Sigma Alpha national honorary society for the study of politics and government, and the Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society, Riley was also the recipient of both the Arthur William Hinners and Luise Hinners Sipfle Poetry Prize and the Babbitt's Prize for short fiction.

Matthew Huddle, a native of Bloomington, was awarded The Professor David Bailey Prize in Chemistry, which honors outstanding achievement in the field of chemistry. Huddle graduated summa cum laude with a major in chemistry, and was a member of both the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa national honor societies, and the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society.

Matthew Spafford, a native of Bartlett, Ill., was awarded The Harold C. Hodge President's Club Award in Natural Science and Mathematics, which recognizes outstanding achievement in natural science and mathematics. Spafford graduated cum laude with a major in chemistry, and was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society. Additionally, Spafford was recognized at the ceremony for his research honors work in chemistry with the title, "Green Chemistry Using Bismuth Compounds: Bismuth (III) Triflate Catalyzed Allylation of Cyclic Acetals."

Kari Irwin, a native of Palatine, Ill., was awarded The Donald R. Koehn Memorial Award, which is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in the humanities. Irwin graduated magna cum laude with a major in religion, and was a member of both the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society and the Gamma Upsilon national media honor society, as well as the Phi Beta Delta honor society for international scholars. Irwin was also station manager of WESN 88.1, the free-form campus radio station.

Anna Konradi, a native of Zionsville, Ind., was awarded The Robert S. Eckley President's Club Award in Social Science, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the social sciences. Konradi graduated magna cum laude with a double major in economics and political science, and was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society, the Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate honors organization, and the Omicron Delta Epsilon national scholastic honorary society for students of economics. Additionally, Konradi was recognized at the ceremony for her research honors work with the title, "Examining Tufte's Political Business Cycle under an Adaptive Expectations Framework."

Sarah Alley, a native of Zionsville, Ind., was awarded The Caroline F. Rupert Nursing Award, which salutes outstanding work during four years of undergraduate study in nursing. Alley graduated cum laude from the School of Nursing, and was a member of the Sigma Theta Tau international honor society for nursing.

Evan Tammen, a native of Thawville, Ill., was awarded The Katherine Riedelbauch Baker Music Award, which recognizes superiority in general musicianship, including theoretical and historical fields. Tammen graduated magna cum laude from the College of Fine Arts as an honors recitalist with a major in orchestral instruments, and was a member of both the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society and the Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society.

Andrea Winsor, a native of Morris, Ill., was awarded The Hester Merwin Ayers Art Achievement Award, which honors outstanding achievement during four years of undergraduate study in art. Winsor graduated cum laude with a double major in art and educational studies, and honors in art-exhibition. Additionally, she was a member of both the Kappa Delta Pi national honorary society for junior and senior education majors and the Kappa Pi international honorary art fraternity.

Kevin Lewis, a native of Naperville, Ill., was awarded both The William T. Beadles Award for Exceptional Achievement in Business Administration, and The Phi Kappa Phi Award. The William T. Beadles Award recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments and professional promise, and the Phi Kappa Phi Award honors an outstanding senior student member of the Phi Kappa Phi national scholastic honorary society with exceptional promise for graduate or professional study. Lewis graduated summa cum laude with a degree in business administration, and was also a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society and the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Heather Lindquist, a native of Mokena, Ill., was awarded The Jack C. Fields Prize for Excellence in Accounting, which is presented for exceptional achievement in the study of accounting. Lindquist graduated summa cum laude with a major in accounting, and was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi national scholastic honorary society, the Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society, and the Alpha Lambda Delta national first year honor society.