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History Major Wins Trip to New York Conference

May 18, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Megan Mondi of Mount Prospect, Ill., a junior history and English literature major at Illinois Wesleyan University, was named a History Scholar Finalist by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History and will attend an all expenses paid conference on the study of American history in New York City June 4-11.

More than 300 undergraduate students from 186 schools across the nation applied for 15 positions in the History Scholars Program, which consists of a six-week research internship in New York City. Fifty finalists, Mondi among them, won a shorter, week-long trip to New York to participate in a conference featuring field trips, discussion with professionals about career options for history majors, and lectures by scholars of American history.

Mondi learned about this opportunity from Jim Simeone, associate professor of political science, with whom she studied American political thought in the spring of 2004. Although her specialty is English history, she said she “decided it would be fun to go to New York and learn more about American history.” She submitted her application, including a sample of her original research on the history of Chicago, in February 2005, and received her letter of acceptance as a finalist in April.

In the fall, Mondi will continue her study of history through honors research on King James with Michael Young, professor of history at Illinois Wesleyan.

Mondi is a graduate of Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette.

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