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IWU Students Present Research in 13th Annual John Wesley Powell Conference

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-- More than 60 students at Illinois Wesleyan University presented papers or poster sessions as part of the 13th annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference, co-sponsored by the Illinois Wesleyan University Provost's office last weekend (April 19-20).

The Student Research Conference was first held at IWU in 1990, and this year will showcase approximately 66 students and their individual projects. The topics of the works spanned diverse fields in the sciences--biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, psychology, mathematics, computer science--as well as the social sciences, language and art--economics, English, sociology, history, anthropology, Hispanic studies, international studies, and music.

[Charles Pell, a research associate in biology at Duke University, presented the keynote for the event.](#) Vice President of Science and Technology at Nekton Research in Durham, North Carolina, he also is co-principal investigator on the biomimetic Miniature Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (MAUV) effort sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Pell's other biologically inspired projects include the Nektar flexible maneuvering thruster and PilotFish, unmanned agile-underwater vehicle efforts, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, plus educational toys and TwiddleFish.

The conference is named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran and a founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined IWU's faculty in 1865. Powell became the first U.S. professor to use field work to teach science. In 1867, Powell took IWU students to explore the Colorado mountains. It was the first expedition of its kind in the history of U.S. higher education. Powell later became the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

For a list of this year's participants and their project titles, [click here](#):