



Spring 4-2-1999

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Recommended Citation

Wallace, Sherry, "Clockwatch Review Literary Magazine Honors IWU Students" (1999).
News and Events. 872.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/872>

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April 2, 1999

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BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--The 1999 Clockwatch Review Prize for Short Fiction has been awarded to Rebecca Murphy, a senior English major from Glen Ellyn, Ill.

The prize, sponsored by Clockwatch Review, a non-profit award-winning journal of the arts, and the English department at Illinois Wesleyan University, is offered each year to encourage talented student writers.

Murphy, one of 14 entrants, won for her story, "Let Me Tell You Something." She received \$100, an award certificate, and her name will be added to a plaque which lists past winners and is displayed in IWU's English House.

According to this year's judge, Ron Rindo, associate professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and author of "Suburban Metaphysics" and "Secrets Men Keep," Murphy's "Let Me Tell You Something" is "narrated in a playful exuberant voice. (It) is a fine story that features captivating language, an exotic setting, surprising characters, and the mythic atmosphere of a well-told fairy tale. Along the way, we meet a devil with a heart, a great-grandfather who once lived off fingernails and sugarcane, and an artist who carries a living mango inside of his belly. It is a warm, wise and wonderful story."

Honorable mentions went to last year's winner, senior art major Mary Etta Eastin from Aledo, Ill. and senior art major Kim DeLuca from Barrington, Ill. Eastin and DeLuca both received certificates of merit.

In 1990, Clockwatch Review was honored as one of the top five literary magazines in the nation. The magazine also was featured in a Bob Greene syndicated column and in an advertisement promoting America's literary magazines in which former Chicago Bulls' coach Phil Jackson held a copy of the IWU-published journal.

For more information, contact James Plath, associate professor of English, at 309/556-3352.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts and its Schools of Music, Theater Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.