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Architectural Historian to Speak in Conjunction with IWU's 150th Birthday

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. --Elizabeth Watson, a noted historic preservationist and 1999 New York State Historic Preservation award-winner, will present "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes" on Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m. in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington. The presentation coincides with IWU's Sesquicentennial celebration.

A graduate of Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Mass., Watson received a master of science degree in historic preservation in 1983 from Columbia University School of Architecture and Planning. She received a master of library science degree in 1998 from Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University.

She will receive an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree from IWU.

Watson is the author of two books including "A Limner's View: An Architectural Odyssey" (1993) and "Houses for Science: A Pictorial History of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory" (1991). She has also contributed to "Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects" (1997), "A Guide to Long Island Architecture" (1993) and the "Long Island Historical Journal" (spring, 1990).

She currently serves as a volunteer archivist at the Archives of American Art in New York.

The preservationist is married to James D. Watson, a trailblazer in the field of DNA and a 1962 Nobel Prize winner, who will serve as the keynote speaker for the President's Sesquicentennial Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Shirk Center. The Watsons have two sons, Rufus and Duncan.

James D. Watson

Watson, a geneticist and biophysicist, graduated from the University of Chicago in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in zoology. In 1950, he received a Ph.D. in zoology from Indiana University.

In 1953, Watson and Francis Crick proposed the double helical structure for DNA, what was deemed "the greatest achievement of science in the 20th century," by Sir Peter Medawar.

Watson's convocation address comes just three months after scientists announced the successful mapping of the human genome, an effort that began 10 years ago under his direction

All presentations by the Watsons are open to the public and free of charge. A 150th birthday celebration for IWU students, faculty, staff and others will follow James Watson's convocation address and will feature the IWU Jazz Ensemble.

IWU's 150th Birthday

Classes began at IWU on Oct. 29, 1850 with two teachers and a handful of students in Bloomington's Methodist church. Attendance soared to 135 by the end of the second year. The university's first building, the College Building (also known as Old North) opened in 1854. IWU President Clinton W. Sears also wanted a "substantial sidewalk" constructed, linking the school with Bloomington -- and spent \$500 of his own money to build the walkway.

Since the fledgling campus' early years with "one building, one sidewalk" it has grown to about 2,025 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre 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, a \$5.1-million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65-million baseball stadium. A \$26-million library and a \$6-million student center are under construction.