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Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

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CONTACT: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Shanna Shipman of Pekin Illinois Wesleyan Senior Named Lincoln Laureate

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University senior, who has studied at Oxford University, worked on Capitol Hill, and cared for children orphaned in the Bosnian war, will receive a Student Laureate Award on Oct. 28 from the Lincoln Academy.

Shanna Shipman of Pekin, Ill., will receive the Lincoln Laureate Award at a special ceremony in the Illinois House of Representatives chamber.

Shipman--a political-science and international studies major--studied in 1999-2000 at Pembroke College, which is part of Oxford University, where she focused on post-Cold War international relations and Eastern European refugee issues.

She was a delegate to the International Law Association, Biannual Conference on International Law while attending Oxford University. Additionally, she was a member of the Collegiate Rowing Team and chair of the Oxford University Student Union's International Committee.

During this past summer, Shipman served as an international volunteer in the Tuzla, Bosnia, area, helping to care for youngsters orphaned as a result of recent fighting in Bosnia.

In 1999, Shipman studied at American University in Washington, D.C., where her coursework concentrated on peace and conflict resolution.

While participating in the Washington Semester Program, Shipman served as an intern with the Leadership Policy Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Her work included researching the Kosovo crisis for the Speaker of the House of Representatives and other House leaders. Shipman's information-gathering sessions involved former U.S. United Nations' Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Shipman has been involved in various leadership activities on and off-campus. While at IWU she has served as Hall Council president and as a freshman senator in the Student Senate. She also has participated in the College Republicans, Model United Nations, Habitat for Humanity, and Kids Enjoying Exercise Now, which offers activities for children with special needs. Shipman is a member of the Kappa Delta sorority.

The Lincoln Laureate award honors an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher education in Illinois. Student laureates are honored for their overall excellence in academic and co-curricular activities. They must have a cumulative and major grade-point average of not less than 3.0. Award recipients receive a certificate of achievement, \$150, and a Student Lincoln Academy medallion.

Shipman, who also has minors in history and philosophy at IWU, resides at 1430 Park Ave., Pekin, Ill.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 2,000 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.