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Stew Salowitz
Illinois Wesleyan University

Judy Barthoff

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CONTACT: Stew Salowitz, 309-556-3206 or Judy Barthoff, Lincoln Academy, 217-785-5030

Illinois Wesleyan Senior Named Lincoln Laureate

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- An Illinois Wesleyan University senior is one of 49 college students to be recognized for excellence by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Kyle Eash of Bloomington was the recipient of the Lincoln Laureate Award, presented by Gov. and Mrs. George Ryan at a special ceremony on Oct. 27 in the Hall of Representatives of the Old Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield.

For the 27th year, the Lincoln Laureate awards honor one 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, a \$150 honorarium, and a Student Lincoln Academy medallion.

"These students have exhibited a personal commitment to excel as seen by their remarkable academic accomplishments," said Ryan. "But just as important, these students serve as role models to other Illinois students as well as their own family and friends. With hard-working, dedicated individuals such as these, Illinois and the rest of the nation can look forward to a bright and prosperous future."

Eash is a double major in biology and business with a grade-point average of 3.98 (on a 4.0 scale). He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate honors organization; Phi Kappa Phi, national scholastic honorary for juniors and seniors; and Beta Beta Beta, national science honorary.

He is the co-author of academic scientific paper titled "A Simple Chemoselective Method for the Deprotection of Acetals and Ketals Using Bismuth Nitrate Pentahydrate" that was published in "Journal of Organic Chemistry" and another, "Deprotection of Ketoximes Using Bismuth Nitrate Pentahydrate", which was published in the journal "Synthesis." A poster presentation of Eash's was featured at the 125th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in August.

Eash is a two-year letterman for the Illinois Wesleyan football team and serves as one of the team's captains this fall. He has also been a member of the IWU track team and serves as the chair of the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin student advisory committee.

Eash has served as a volunteer for the local Big Brothers program and has been a participant in the local Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk fundraiser. He has been the philanthropy chairman for the local Sigma Chi fraternity chapter and has been treasurer of the IWU Interfraternity Council.

An IWU Presidential Scholar and National Merit Scholar, he is a member of the President's panel for multi-talented students, serves on the IWU student-alumni council, and has addressed alumni groups and potential students.

Kyle is the son of Norm and Cheryl Eash, 1001 E. Monroe Dr., Bloomington.

The Lincoln Academy, unique among the 50 states, was established 36 years ago to honor Illinois' most distinguished citizens with the state's highest award, the Order of Lincoln, which will be presented at the Lincoln Academy's spring convocation on May 4, 2002.