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Kyle Eash of Bloomington IWU Senior Named to USA Today Academic Team

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Kyle Eash of Bloomington
IWU Senior Named to
USA Today Academic
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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Illinois Wesleyan University senior Kyle Eash is one of 20 students chosen to the *USA Today's* 13th annual All-USA College Academic Team, which was announced in the national newspaper's Wednesday, Feb. 27, edition.

The award honors the college students for outstanding intellectual achievement and leadership. The students will receive a \$2,500 cash award.

The team was selected by a panel of judges from almost 600 students nominated by colleges in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Judges considered grades, leadership, activities and, most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

Eash was nominated for the award by IWU chemistry professor Ram Mohan, with seconding material provided by biology professor Thomas Griffiths and Ruth Ann Friedberg, accounting professor.

"This is a great honor," said Eash, a graduate of Bloomington High School. "It motivates me to keep working hard and to try to achieve more. Illinois Wesleyan provided the environment to help me become the type of person who could win this kind of award and I especially appreciate Dr. Mohan, my research advisor, and Dr. Griffiths, my academic advisor, for all their help and guidance in building a successful academic career at IWU."

"Kyle has a combination of intelligence, maturity, charisma and dedication that make him a uniquely talented and well-rounded individual that one seeks in candidates for an All-USA Academic Team," said Mohan. "It is not often that I have attempted hard to convince a biology major to pursue graduate school in chemistry."

Mohan added that Eash is one of a select few students he has taught that has been able to work successfully on multiple projects at the same time. "Handling multiple research projects requires a deep understanding of the concepts, efficient time management skills and a natural curiosity to explore the unknown." Mohan said. "Kyle embodies all of these skills."

"*USA Today* is proud to continue its commitment to honoring academic excellence and community service throughout the country," said USA Today editor Karen Jurgensen.

For more information on the winners as well as the second- and third-team members, see the Wednesday, Feb. 27, edition of *USA Today* or log on to allstars.usatoday.com.

USA Today is the nation's top selling newspaper. It is published via satellite at 36 locations in the USA and five sites abroad. With a total average daily circulation of 2.3 million, *USA Today* is available worldwide. Also included in the *USA Today* brand are USATODAY.com, the top newspaper site on the Internet.

Kyle Eash

Eash is a double major in biology and business with a grade-point average of 3.99 (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.

In November, Eash was the recipient of a Lincoln Laureate Award as one of 49 college students to be recognized for excellence by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

He is the co-author of four academic scientific papers -- "A Simple Chemoselective Method for the Deprotection of Acetals and Ketals Using Bismuth Nitrate Pentahydrate", published in "Journal of Organic Chemistry"; "Deprotection of Ketoximes Using Bismuth Nitrate Pentahydrate", published in the journal "Synthesis"; and two other scientific papers have been published in the journal "Tetrahedron Letters."

A poster presentation of Eash's was featured at the 125th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in August 2001.

A three-year football letterman, Eash was a co-captain of the 2001 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin co-championship team and led the CCIW in pass efficiency. Eash was elected to the Verizon District Five College Division all-academic football team and was on the Academic All-America national ballot. He has also been a member of the IWU track team and currently serves as the chair of the CCIW 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, 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.

The son of Norm and Cheryl Eash of Bloomington, Kyle is weighing his postgraduate medical school opportunities.

USA Today's 13th annual All-USA College Academic Team

In addition to Eash, the other first team members are:

Mindy Baccus, William Jewell College, Ada, Kansas
Phenocia Bauerle, Montana State University
Paul Bergman, University of Pennsylvania
Cheri Blauwet, University of Arizona
John Broach, II, Northwestern University
Holly Camp, Athens State University
Daniel Davis, The Johns Hopkins University and The Peabody Conservatory of Music
Anne Han, Case Western Reserve University
Ben Hood, University of Arkansas
Helena Horak, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Dana Hork, University of Pennsylvania
Vera Keller, Harvard University
David Kovara, University of Delaware
Brian Lutz, Arizona State University
Samuel Malone, Duke University
Donald Matsuda, Jr., Stanford University
Cecilia Mo, University of Southern California
Robby Shelton, University of Denver
Michael Wood, West Virginia University

Judging and Judges

Criteria for the All-USA College Academic Team were developed in consultation with *USA Today's* education co-sponsors: the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The 2002 All-USA College Academic Team final judges were:

Lew Armistead, LA Communications
Frank Balz, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Susan Chilcott, American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Cheryl Fields, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
Christine Garton, 2001 All-USA College Academic First Team

Roz Hiebert, Education Consultant
Shanda Ivory, National Association for College Admission Counseling
Wendi Maloney, American Association of University Professors
Tim McDonough, American Council on Education
Jadwiga Sebrechts, Women's College Coalition
Marilyn J. Suiter, Geoscience Educator
Robert Thornton, Housatonic Community College

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