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MUSE Undergraduate Literature Conference

Kristin Fields '12
Illinois Wesleyan University

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MUSE Undergraduate Literature Conference

September 16, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – On Saturday, Sept. 25, Illinois Wesleyan University will provide 13 students from four universities with the opportunity to present undergraduate work in literature during the sixth annual MUSE Undergraduate Literature Conference. The event will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and the first of two sessions to begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Center for Natural Science (CNS) (201 Beecher St., Bloomington).

Sponsored by the Alpha Eta Pi chapter of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta (STD) with the assistance of IWU's Department of English, the conference will consist of two undergraduate sessions, an address by keynote speaker Srikanth Reddy and a panel of English graduates speaking on a variety of topics.

Reddy, an assistant professor of English at the University of Chicago, received his master's degree from the Iowa Writer's Workshop and his Ph.D. from Harvard. He has been featured in a number of publications such as the *Chicago Tribune* and *American Literature*, working primarily in the field of poetry and poetics. "I am particularly interested in the intersection of critical and creative practice and the institutional history that has come to segregate these endeavors," said Reddy, who teaches creative writing workshops and literature seminars.

In the spring of 2011, University of California Press will release Reddy's next book of poetry, *Voyager*, which he will discuss at the conference.

The day's events, which are free and open to the public, will include:

Registration (8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.), Commons of CNS

Session I (9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.): Lessons from Literature, Lessons for Literature, Room 103; Rethinking the Classics, Room E104

Session II (11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.): Genius Loci: Spirit of the Place, Room E10; Construction of Character, Room E104

Keynote Address (1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.): Srikanth Reddy, "Writing and Erasure: Notes on *Voyager*," Room C101

Panel Presentations (2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.): Teaching and Education in English, Room E108; English Graduate School and Academia, Room E106; Technical Writing and Publishing, Room E105.

IWU's chapter of STD was awarded the title "Outstanding Chapter" in 2007. In addition to organizing MUSE, the chapter publishes "The Delta," a compilation of student essays examining literature, and has continued its tradition of hosting student and faculty research colloquia, bringing authors and literary critics to campus, coordinating book club discussions, holding a campus book drive, and promoting student participation in regional and national conferences.

STD was founded in 1924 at Dakota Wesleyan College by Judson Q. Owen, a 1913 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan. The organization invites the membership of outstanding students of the English language in

undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Illinois Wesleyan's Alpha Eta Pi chapter was founded in 1998 and currently has 10 active members, led by co-Presidents Kaz Frankiewicz and Korey Williams.

To learn more about MUSE, contact the IWU English Department at (309) 556-3333. For more information on STD, visit their website at www.iwu.edu/english/awards/STD.shtml, or contact co-Presidents Frankiewicz (cfrankie@iwu.edu) or Williams (kwillia2@iwu.edu).

Contact: Kristin Fields, '12, (309) 556-3181