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Human Rights Leader to Present Stevenson Memorial Lecture

September 29, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the first woman President of Ireland, will present the 27th address in the Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall, 1210 Park St., Bloomington.

The event is free and open to the public.

The Stevenson Lecture Series, initiated in 1965 as a memorial to the political leader and Chief U.S. Delegate to the United Nations who was raised in Bloomington, is co-hosted by Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University.

Robinson served as UN High Commissioner from 1997-2002 after a seven-year tenure as President of Ireland. As High Commissioner, her role was to implement the reform proposal of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to integrate human rights concerns in all the activities of the UN.

Robinson now chairs the Council of Women World Leaders and is a member of the Global Commission on International Migration. She was named a "Hero and Icon" as one of Time Magazine's 2005 top 100 men and women whose "power, talent or moral example is transforming the world."

Previous Stevenson lecturers have included Lech Walesa, former president of Poland; Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State; and Sir Edward Heath, former prime minister of Britain.

The board of the Stevenson Memorial Lecture Series, chaired by the presidents of Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University, consists of 23 members who organize presentations designed to perpetuate the work of Stevenson by "promoting his ideals and furthering the cause of world peace and good will among peoples," as established by the founding members in 1965.

Further details on Robinson's visit will be released later.