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IWU's 16th Annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference

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April 6, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-Dr. James Gentile, eighth president of the Tucson-based Research Corporation, one of the nation's leading private foundations for the development of scientific research at colleges and universities, will be the keynote speaker at Illinois Wesleyan's 16th annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference on Saturday, April 16.

Gentile will deliver his address "Carcinogens in the Environment: Separating Fact from Fiction," at 10 a.m. in the Anderson Auditorium (C101) of the Center for Natural Science (CNS), (201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington).

The conference was established in 1990 to recognize the research projects and creative endeavors of Illinois Wesleyan students. Named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran and a founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined IWU's faculty in 1865, the program will showcase approximately 100 students in their individual or joint research projects in fields such as economics, history, environmental studies, neuroscience, theatre arts, computer science, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, music, and biochemistry. Research by students at the freshman to senior levels can be presented either in a poster session format, or in a 15-minute oral presentation.

For a list of students and their presentation titles, visit https://sun.iwu.edu/~iwunews/newsr/se/powell_projects_2005

Sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan's Provost's Office and the IWU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, the conference also invites participants and their parents to the play *A Bold Stroke for a Wife* produced by the IWU Theatre Department. A limited number of free tickets will be available to conference participants. The play times are 8 p.m. on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 17. Students from the 371 Theatre History Class, who have compiled an extensive dramaturgy file on this play, will be present at the poster session for questions and answers.

Other fine arts attractions of the conference will be presentations of senior art at the Merwin and Wakeley galleries and presentations by music composition students in Presser Hall of Westbrook Auditorium.

All events, other than indicated, are free and open to the public.

Gentile, an internationally recognized scientist in the area of chemical mutagenesis and DNA damage processing, has studied how certain chemicals, such as pollutants and agrochemicals, can react with plants in ways that are harmful to humans who consume the plants.

Prior to his appointment, Gentile served as the Dean for the Natural Sciences and the Kenneth G. Herrick Professor of Biology at Hope College, in Holland, Mich. He has also served as a panelist, consultant, advisor and board member for a wide range of scientific, educational, and government organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Advisory Board and the World Health Organization Advisory Group.

Gentile has authored and co-authored 160 scientific publications, and is the editor-in-chief of *Mutation Research*. He received his bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn., and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Illinois State University, in 1970 and 1974.

Following is the schedule of events:

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8:30-9 a.m. Breakfast and Poster Setup (Atrium, CNS)

9-10 a.m. Keynote Address

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Oral Presentations (CNS)

12:15-1:30 p.m. Joint Luncheon (Main Lounge, Memorial Center)

1:30-2:30 p.m. Afternoon Poster Presentations (Atrium, CNS)

2:35-3:45 p.m. Oral Presentations (CNS)

4-5 p.m. Presentation by Senior Art Students (Merwin and Wakeley Galleries)

5:15-6:15 p.m. Performances of Music Student Compositions (Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall)



Dr. James Gentile