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IWU Scholars Present Papers at English Language and Literature Conference

April 8, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Four English majors and one theatre arts major from Illinois Wesleyan University were selected to attend the University of St. Francis' 14th Annual Undergraduate Conference on English Language and Literature in Joliet, Ill. Students from all over the country were present to listen to keynote speaker Marilyn Nelson, the award-winning poet and author whose books include *The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems*.

The conference, which took place March 18-19, was an opportunity for students to initiate scholarship and interact by chairing conference sessions and participating in discussions on papers. The conference topics ranged from "Fiction and Memoir: Framing Stories," to "Women in Literature" and "Medieval Literature."

The selected scholars from IWU were funded by the University's Faculty Development Committee (FDC) Student Travel Support fund. Their presentations were:

- Cathy Gilbert, a senior from Peoria, "Genre as the Path to Authority: Literary Choices of Margery Kempe and Christine de Pizan"
- Chelsey D. Hillyer, a senior from Macomb, Ill., "Reaching Beyond the Female: The Wife of Bath and James Joyce's Molly Bloom as Humanist Constructions"
- Jaclyn Jemc, a senior from Park Ridge, Ill., "A Story Sought: The Past in the Poetry of Seamus Heaney and Eavan Boland"
- Molly M. McLay, a junior from Sherman, Ill., "The Sad Strength of Griselda: Silence, Sympathy, and the Model Woman (or Human) in the Clerk's Tale"
- Rachel Price, a senior from New Lenox, Ill., "A Nation of Dunces Congratulating Themselves: The Miller's Tale Elucidates/ Forrest Gump"

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