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## IWU Student Wins Science Fiction Award Honorable Mention

April 19, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Catherine Krahe of Freeport, a junior biology major at Illinois Wesleyan University, received honorable mention in the Dell Magazine's Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing.

Krahe, a graduate of Freeport Senior High School, received this recognition for her story "Undine." She was also invited, along with six other honored undergraduate authors, to the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA), held in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., March 16 - 20.

"We aren't a bunch of tired old scribblers. For the writers and more relaxed academics, it's a nice time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones," said Krahe, emphasizing the fun she had while at the ICFA. The conference was five days of conversing with fellow fantasy writers, receiving critiques on her story, and listening to paper presentations and readings by various professional science fiction writers.

Krahe learned of the writing competition because of her active participation in the online writing community largely devoted to science fiction, fantasy, and horror. She has been writing stories as long as she can remember, and has actively sent out pieces for publication in various magazines. The piece she submitted to the competition, "Undine," was inspired by a story that won a science fiction contest in *American Girl Magazine* when the magazine was just starting. The *American Girl* story was about a drowned ghost and a girl who tried to put the ghost to rest, only to end up trading places with it. Krahe's story flows similarly to this one, and also includes themes of water and transformation.

Krahe plans to work in molecular biology, but writing "is something I'll continue to do until I can no longer pair the end of a sentence with its beginning."

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