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## James P. Sikora Named Winner of 2007 *Pantagraph* Award

April 12, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- James P. Sikora, Professor of sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University, was named Wednesday (April 12) as the 2007 winner of *The Pantagraph* Award for Teaching Excellence at the University.

The teacher-scholar award is the University's top teaching honor and is sponsored by the daily newspaper based in Bloomington that serves eight counties and more than 60 communities in Central Illinois. As is custom, the award winner was announced at the University's annual Honors Day Convocation in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall. The honoree is selected by Illinois Wesleyan's Promotion and Tenure Committee based on nominations received from members of the faculty.

The keynote address at the Honors Day Convocation was given by the 2006 *Pantagraph* winner, Mary Ann Bushman, associate professor of English, who formally received the award from Barry Winterland, general manager of *The Pantagraph*. Bushman's address was titled "Unruly Tongues."

The Honors Day Convocation is the annual event to honor many student achievements and awards in addition to announcing *The Pantagraph* winner.

Professor Sikora graduated from Southern Illinois University and received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Sikora joined the IWU faculty in 1979 following an active academic career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He teaches courses in sociology, criminology and he co-developed the Action Research Center, which engages students with faculty and community leaders in researching and solving community problems.

In announcing the award, Illinois Wesleyan University Acting Dean of the Faculty Tom Griffiths commented on Sikora's teaching and scholarship as well as his commitment to community-service learning activities. "Professor Sikora's approach is impressive. His students' enthusiasm for the course work spreads, sparking ideas for new projects and the desire to make a difference in their community."



James P. Sikora