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Ann Aubry  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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## Kristin Serna Wins Technos International Prize

April 13, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Kristin Serna, an International Studies/Western European Studies major at Illinois Wesleyan from Schaumburg, Ill., has been awarded the Technos International Prize by the Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust in Japan. The public announcement of the award was made at the Illinois Wesleyan Honors Convocation on Wednesday, April 12.

The prize is given to a graduating senior at Illinois Wesleyan for outstanding academic performance and commitment to the cause of international understanding. This is the 14th year the award has been presented to an Illinois Wesleyan student.

The Tanaka Ikueikai Educational Trust was founded by Kenji Tanaka, a Japanese businessman and honorary Illinois Wesleyan trustee who is committed to improving and promoting international relations around the world.

While selection of the award recipient is up to the discretion of the University, it is preferred that the student be connected by studies or activities to the international spirit of the award.

Serna studied abroad with Illinois Wesleyan's London Program in the fall of 2003, and is conducting senior research on British history and culture inspired by that experience. Serna also has been active with the International Studies Program in organizing its annual Hunger Banquet, which demonstrates inequalities in nutrition throughout the world. She was instrumental in arranging for proceeds from the banquet to benefit a humanitarian organization in the Philippines, said William Munro, associate professor of political science and director of International Studies.

"She's been very concerned about us (being involved) in the community, making a difference as citizens," Munro said.

Serna, a graduate of J.B. Conant High School in Hoffman Estates, Ill., was among the inaugural inductees into the University's new Phi Beta Delta International Studies honor society last year, and this year served on the society's executive committee. She also is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Pi Delta Phi, honor societies for first-year students and French language and literature, respectively.



Senior Kristin Serna receives the Technos International Prize from President Richard F. Wilson (left), joined by Acting Provost Roger Schnaitter (second from left) and William Munro, associate professor of political science and director of International Studies.

*Contact: Ann Aubry, (309) 556-3181*