



Winter 1-18-2007

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Recommended Citation

Kuzniar, Taylor, "Senior Todd Kumler Named Lincoln Laureate" (2007). *News and Events*. 3161.

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Lincoln Laureate Todd Kumler (center) is flanked by John B. Simon, chancellor of the Lincoln Academy and Ann M. Burke, Illinois Supreme Court Justice.

Senior Todd Kumler Named Lincoln Laureate

January 18, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan senior economics and mathematics double major Todd Kumler was one of approximately 50 Illinois college students recognized by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois as a Student Laureate. The ceremony took place in Springfield in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Established 40 years ago to honor Illinois' most distinguished citizens, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois presents the annual Lincoln Laureate award to a top senior from each of the state's degree-granting institutions of higher learning. The Academy determined that the students brought honor to the state of Illinois by their commitment to the principles of democracy and humanity as exemplified by Abraham Lincoln.

At the ceremony, Kumler was presented a Student Laureate medallion, a \$150 honorarium and certificate of achievement. The events included the Student Laureate Presentation Ceremony and an exclusive reception and luncheon.

A native of Elgin., Ill., Kumler, valedictorian at Larkin High School in 2003, has been admitted into several collegiate honor societies including Phi Beta Kappa Undergraduate Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi All-Discipline Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta First-Year Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma First-Year Honor Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society and Phi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society. He has also been named an IWU Presidential Scholar.

Kumler's extracurricular activities include the Economics Society, of which he is president and the College Democrats, of which he is co-president. He works as an editor of both the Park Place Economist, which publishes articles by IWU economics students and the Undergraduate Economic Review, which is a worldwide online journal. Also, as the 2005 Student Senate treasurer, Kumler was awarded the Minor Myers, jr. Student Senate Scholarship.

In 2004, Kumler served as a campaign intern for Barack Obama's U.S. Senate campaign. As the only intern in McLean County, he assisted in advancing and organizing campaign events, led a campus chapter group which promoted collegiate voter registration and networked with local party officials and candidates to coordinate election efforts.

In the summer of 2006, Kumler worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland as a research intern where he performed research and statistical analysis for two future publications by a senior bank economist on the U.S. payment system, conducted research for the "Beige Book" Federal Reserve Board report on current economic conditions and completed fact checks and data searches.

For additional information about the Student Laureate Award, visit the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Web site at <http://www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org/>.

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