



Summer 7-19-2012

## Food for Thought

Sylvia Zukowski

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Zukowski, Sylvia, "Food for Thought" (2012). *News and Events*. 4496.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/4496>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Office of Communications, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

(309) 556-3181  
univcomm@iwu.edu

July 19, 2012

**Contact:** Sylvia Zukowski '12, (309) 556-3181, univcomm@iwu.edu

### **Food for Thought**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – When strolling through the produce section at a grocery store or harvesting a home garden, many of us hope to find sweet strawberries, plump tomatoes and buttery lettuce. However, there are members of the Bloomington-Normal community that do not have access to fresh produce or have the space to grow a garden. At Illinois Wesleyan, Ryan Dyar, Class of 2014 and Danny Kenny, Class of 2013, are promoting community connectedness and trying to make produce accessible to all through an IWU Peace Garden, located at St. Francis and Prospect Avenue.

In the spring of 2012, Dyar, a political science major from Danville, Ill., and Kenny, an environmental studies and Hispanic studies double major from Wildwood, Mo., were named Weir Fellows. The Weir Fellowship, distributed through Illinois Wesleyan's Action Research Center (ARC), links Illinois Wesleyan students with research projects for community-based not-for-profit organizations. "While working on our respective projects through the Weir Fellowship, we became familiar with the concept of a campus garden," said Dyar. "Previous students and faculty, specifically Professor of Political Science William Munro, had talked extensively about having a garden on campus and the idea was set in motion when we started working with ARC," said Kenny.

Once Dyar and Kenny decided to have a garden at Illinois Wesleyan, they began to work with Carl Teichman, director of government and community relations, and James Simeone, associate professor of political science, among others, to obtain a plot of land.

After tireless lease negotiations and garden planning sessions, the IWU Peace Garden became a reality when Dyar's shovel hit the ground in April. "Getting used to gardening was difficult, it is truly labor intensive," said Dyar. From preparing the soil to planting seeds, Dyar