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Houston Student Participates in Research Conference

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May 7, 2004

CONTACT: Ann Aubry***Houston Student Participates in Research Conference***

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Mai Nguyen of Houston, Texas, a junior chemistry and biology major at Illinois Wesleyan University, participated in the 15th annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference on April 17.

Nguyen, a graduate of North Side High School, was among 104 Illinois Wesleyan undergraduates whose research was featured at the event.

The title of Nguyen's project was "BchC Catalyzed Bacteriochlorophyll Biosynthetic Pathway in *Rhodobacter capsulatus*."

The annual conference, named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell — a Civil War veteran and a founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined Illinois Wesleyan's faculty in 1865 — recognizes the research projects and creative endeavors of Illinois Wesleyan students. Sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan's Provost's Office and the IWU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, the event showcases Illinois Wesleyan students and their individual research projects with oral and poster presentations in such diverse fields as chemistry, Greek and Roman studies, economics, psychology, nursing, political science, biology, computer science, and international studies.

At this year's event, Martin Hulce, professor of chemistry and biomedical sciences at Creighton University, discussed the role of hormones in signaling hunger in a keynote address entitled "The Big Mac Attack Message."

Illinois Wesleyan University, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts, with 17 academic departments, and in the Schools of Art, Music, Nursing and Theatre Arts.