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Dey Wins 2009 Top Teaching Prize

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Dey Wins 2009 Top Teaching Prize

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Jonathan Dey, professor of biology and the Miner Linnaeus Sherff Professor of Botany, was named as the 2009 winner of The Pantagraph Award for Teaching Excellence at the University on Wednesday, April 16, at the annual Honors Convocation in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

The \$1,000 teacher-scholar award is the University's top teaching honor and is sponsored by the daily newspaper headquartered in Bloomington that services eight counties and more than 60 communities in Central Illinois. The honoree is selected by Illinois Wesleyan's Promotion and Tenure Committee based on nominations received from members of the faculty.

Dey has traveled the country in his studies of botany, and has discovered, described and named several lichens through his research. A graduate of Oregon State and Duke universities, his doctoral research centered on lichens of high mountain areas of the Southern Appalachians in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Beginning his career as a secondary school teacher in Nigeria with the Peace Corps, Dey came to Illinois Wesleyan in 1974. He was a member of the scientific team that developed a model for using lichens as an indicator of air quality in forest ecosystems in the middle Atlantic and southeastern United States as part of the National Forest Health Monitoring Program. He now works on contributing to the macrolichen inventory of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) of the park.

In addition to the announcement of The Pantagraph Award for Teaching Excellence winner, the Convocation was an occasion to recognize numerous student scholastic honors. Retiring faculty members also were recognized at the Convocation. Associate Professor of Nursing Kathryn Scherck, who has been with Illinois Wesleyan for 21 years, and Associate Professor of Music Susan Brandon, who has been with Illinois Wesleyan for 41 years, were both designated the title of associate professor emeritus. Professor of Economics Margaret Chapman, who has been with Illinois Wesleyan for 31 years, was designated the title of professor emeritus.

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