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IWU Students Initiated into
New Computer Science Honor Society

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--On April 15, seven Illinois Wesleyan University students were initiated into Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE), IWU's new honor society for computing sciences. National UPE president Dr. James Comer attended the chartering and initiation ceremony held in the in the Memorial Student Center.

The students were selected for UPE membership based on a 3.5 grade-point average or above and are included in the top 20 percent of all computer science majors. Only juniors and seniors are eligible to become members. Upon payment of a one-time $25 fee, students receive a certificate, honor cords and pins marking their membership in the honor society.

IWU, which was granted the Illinois Gamma chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon in January 2000, began the application process for its UPE chapter during October 1999 after several computer science students saw the need for an honor society to recognize excellence in their major. The material sent to the national headquarters, consisted of a formal application, constitution and by-laws, listing of all IWU computer science courses, description of IWU's computing facilities and resumes of IWU faculty members in the computer science department.

"After I found out that Upsilon Pi Epsilon existed, I thought it would be a great addition to the school," said Alisandra Jezek, senior computer science major. "Outstanding students in computer science should be recognized since there is so much talent in the computer science department."

Upsilon Pi Epsilon began in 1967 at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, and is the first and only existing international honor society in the computing sciences. The international organization consists of chapters at various colleges and universities across North America and overseas whose mission is to recognize academic excellence at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the computing sciences.

"UPE's role on IWU's campus is to honor and recognize academic excellence in the computer science field," said Lionel Shapiro, IWU assistant professor of computer science and UPE faculty advisor. "The IWU-UPE also hopes to become active with chapter meetings, events and fundraising activities."

The initiates are:

- **Jay Bryant**, a junior computer science major from Cedar Rapids, Ia.
- **Janelle Dieken**, a senior computer science and math major from German Valley, Ill.
- **Aaron Feakins**, a senior business administration and computer science major from Aurora, Ill.
- **Alisandra Jezek**, a senior computer science major from Des Plaines, Ill.
- **Angela Parsons**, a senior biology and computer science major from Peru, Ill.
- **Christopher Tartalglia**, a senior computer science and math major from Loves Park, Ill.
- **Byran Van Voorn**, a junior computer science major from McLean, Ill.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a $15 million athletics and recreation center, a $25 million science center, a $6.8 million residence hall, a $5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a $1.65 baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a $26 million library and $6 million student center. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.