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Heather Hahn
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Contact: Heather Hahn, 309-556-3181

IWU May Term Class Takes Students to Presidential Conventions

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University students enrolled in *Presidential Campaigns and the Nominating Process* as part of May Term 2000 will have the unique opportunity to observe the presidential road to the White House from the inside. In August, Greg Shaw, IWU assistant professor of political science, will accompany his class to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

IWU's May Term 2000, entitled *Definition: Human*, is a month-long program that gives students an opportunity to study a single course intensively on campus, take a travel course, or have an internship. According to Shaw, the chance to design a May Term political science course during a presidential election year was irresistible.

"What an opportune moment to mesh classroom learning with real politics," said Shaw. "This is really where the important decisions are being made."

Since admission to the presidential conventions is highly selective, Shaw's students will report on-site for six small Illinois newspapers: the *Farmer City Journal*, the *News Gazette of Champaign*, the *Daily Times in Ottawa*, the *Mt. Vernon Register News*, the *Daily Leader* in Pontiac and the *Mattoon Journal Gazette*. According to Shaw, these papers will receive their major news about the conventions from the Associated Press, but IWU student reports will provide them with a localized, personal angle. Once Shaw's students

reach the presidential conventions, they will be responsible for producing at least one story per day.

"The Illinois Wesleyan students will interview the Illinois delegates at both conventions about the selection process for candidates and their running mates," said Shaw. "The students will work independently, but I will serve as their first-cut editor before we e-mail the stories back to the newspapers."

Shaw hopes to obtain press credentials for his students so they can be "full players" at the conventions, and, during class periods in May, the students will learn basic journalism skills and meet with the editors of the newspapers they will represent. "It should really be exciting," said Shaw. "Conventions have definitely become a media event, and we're going to be a part of that."

The combination of politics and journalism motivated senior English major Karin McDowell of Ottawa, Ill., to enroll in Shaw's May Term course. McDowell, an English major with a political science minor, will attend the Republican National Convention.

"Dr. Shaw's class is the perfect way for me to combine my political interests with my practical knowledge of journalism and my English major," said McDowell. "It's one thing to sit in a classroom and go over charts of public opinion and learn about the three branches of the federal government, and it's another to attend a major party convention and be a part of and observe the process. This is the ultimate hands-on experience."

May Term Travel Courses at Illinois Wesleyan University

Other travel courses offered during Illinois Wesleyan University's May Term 2000 will take students from inner-city Chicago to tropical Costa Rica. International and domestic travel courses offered are:

- ***Community and Identity in the Mosaic of Chicago's Cultural Diversity*** with Scott Chesebro will allow students to volunteer three full days a week at Chicago schools, community development organizations, theaters, art galleries, health care

clinics, shelters, law offices and newspapers. There also will be opportunities for students to visit the sites of Chicago's rich musical mosaic, renowned cuisines and racially diverse neighborhoods.

- ***Field Methods in Archaeology*** with Dennis Groh, university chaplain and professor of humanities and archaeology, will take students to Israel for four weeks to study the basic techniques of archaeology and to participate in an excavation at the former site of a public building in ancient Sepphoris. According to IWU's May Term catalog, the site's finds include some of the most beautiful mosaic floors ever uncovered in Israel, and students will help to recover the traces of human habitation, including pottery, coins and architecture.
- ***Marine Biology: Australia*** with Bruce Criley, George C. and Ella Beach Lewis professor and chair of biology, will allow students to study coral reef biology of vertebrates and invertebrates at Orpheus Island Research Station off the coast of Australia. After two weeks of study, the students will return to the mainland and undertake ecological studies at the Queensland Daintree National Rainforest and the Atherton Tablelands.
- ***Central Europe: The Transition to Decentralized Markets*** with Gerald Olson, associate professor of accounting and chair of business administration, will enhance students' knowledge of the business, cultural, economic and political environments in Eastern and Western Europe. During visits to London, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna, students will meet with business executives, educators and government officials and tour several business organizations.
- ***Risk Management of Global Natural Disasters: Travel Seminar to Bermuda*** with David Marlett, assistant professor of business administration, will investigate how society attempts to mitigate and repair damage caused by natural disasters. Bermuda is the leading site for reinsurers specializing in insuring against

natural disasters. Students will meet with experts within this field and discuss their visions for the future.

- ***Economics of the Arts*** with Virginia Owen, adjunct professor of sociology, will take students to Austria to explore the relationship between the way the arts are financed and the kind of art produced. Patronage, government subsidy and market approaches will be examined and illustrated with art history examples from music, plastic arts and architecture. Students also will view in person or hear in concert many of these examples.
- ***Tropical Ecology: Costa Rica*** with Given Harper, associate professor of biology, will emphasize tropical ecology and issues associated with the preservation of biodiversity. Students will visit the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste in northern Costa Rica, the site of a longterm restoration process by world-renowned tropical ecologist Dan Janzen. After observing Janzen's efforts firsthand, students will interview native Costa Ricans about their views on the preservation of biodiversity.
- ***Tale of Three Cities: Vienna, Prague, Bratislava--Cultures at the Crossroads*** with Marina Balina, professor of German and Russian and chair of modern and classical languages and literatures, will focus on the life and cultural practices of three multicultural cities: Vienna, Prague and Bratislava. Students will study the historical background, formative elements of culture, public space, means of cultural expression and unique political/social institutions in each of the three cities.
- ***The Plantagenet World*** with Chris Callahan, associate professor of French and Spanish, will explore the cultural and historical expression of medieval France and England by focusing on the Plantagenets, the royal house that ruled England from the accession of Henry II in 1154 to the death of Richard III in 1485. Students will visit pertinent sites to the Plantagenets' sphere of influence throughout France and England,

examining contemporary cultural artifacts, including architecture and sculpture, stained glass, tapestry, sacred and secular music, poetry and book production.

- ***Celtic Culture on the Emerald Isle*** with Todd Tucker, associate professor of music, will investigate various aspects of Irish culture. Students will stay with a host family for two weeks, visit with local experts on Celtic culture, study music, dance, literature and architecture and spend a week sightseeing in the rural West regions of the country.
- ***Collegiate Choir in Italy*** with J. Scott Ferguson, associate professor of music and director of choral activities, is open to members of the 1999-2000 Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir. The Choir will perform seven concerts of sacred choral music from the Renaissance to the 20th century in Venice, Bologna, Florence and Rome.
- ***Transcultural Nursing and Health in Hawaii*** with Jane Brue, associate professor of nursing, will focus on the influence of historical, geographical and cultural characteristics on health and health care delivery in the Hawaiian Islands. Students will develop an awareness of resources for meeting the health needs of persons with varied cultural backgrounds.
- ***Environmental Politics*** with Frank Boyd, assistant professor of political science, will take students to the Appalachian mountains of North and South Carolina to learn how the political sector is cooperating with state and local government officials to preserve natural landscapes in the eastern half of the U.S. The class will backpack on the Foothills Trail and travel down the Chattooga River.
- ***Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia: Thailand, Malaysia, Phillipines*** with Teddy Amoloza, associate professor of sociology and director of international studies, and Doran French, professor and chair of psychology, will take students to three countries representing the diversity of peoples and cultures in Southeast Asia. In Bangkok, students will visit the Royal Palace to appreciate the impact of Buddhism on

various facets of Thai life. The class also will tour Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and live with host families in Manila, Phillipines.

- *New York and the Contemporary Theatre* with John Ficca, professor of theatre arts, will focus on trends in contemporary theatre by examining the theatre scene in New York City. Students will attend 12-14 Broadway, off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway productions, as well as meet with a wide range of working actors, set designers, agency people and production specialists.

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 million 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.