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April 3, 2009

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John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference in its 20th Year

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University will host the 20th annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference on Saturday, April 18 in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (CNS) (201 Beecher St., Bloomington). Andrew Postlewaite, Harry P. Kamen professor of economics and finance at the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the keynote speech.

Postlewaite is an Econometric Society Fellow and director of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His most recent studies and publications have been related to economic models, expert perspectives and the consumer-market relationship.

Viewing the presentations is free and open to the public.

The research conference has been held yearly since 1990 and honors explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, who was one of the first professors in the country to educate science students through fieldwork in the mountain ranges of Colorado. Powell joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1865 after serving in the Civil War. He was a founder of the National Geographic Society and the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

All research posters will be assigned numbers that determine the order in which they will be displayed. Participants will present their individual or joint research projects in fields such as religion, political science, international studies, and psychology, among many others. Research by students at the first-year to senior levels will be presented either in a poster session format or in a 15-minute oral presentation.

Following is a list of conference events:

- 8:30-9 a.m.—Breakfast and poster setup (CNS Commons)
- 9-10 a.m.—Poster presentations: morning session (CNS Commons)
- 10 a.m.-12 p.m.—Oral presentations (CNS, various locations)
- 12:15-1:15 p.m.—Luncheon (Young Main Lounge, Memorial Center)
- 1:15-2:30 p.m.—Keynote Speech by Andrew Postlewaite, University of Pennsylvania Harry P. Kamen Professor of Economics and Finance (CNS)

- 2:30-3:45 p.m.—Poster presentations: afternoon session (CNS Commons)
- 2:30-4 p.m.—Music Compilation Video (CNS Dance Studio B)
- 2:30-4 p.m.—Presentation by senior art students (Merwin and Wakeley galleries in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art, 6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington)

For additional information on the conference, contact Professor of Economics Mike Seeborg at mseeborg@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3134, or visit the conference Web site at <http://www.iwu.edu/jwprc/index.shtml>.

Each of the abstracts from the conference will be preserved online through the University's new Digital Commons on The Ames Library Web site. Digital Media Initiatives Librarian Stephanie Davis-Kahl is working to gather as many past entries as possible for the Commons.

"Students will be able to use the Commons as part of a research portfolio, not to mention alumni can come and see their old work," said Davis-Kahl.

Presenters at this year's conference may also have their research considered for The Ames Library Artistic and Scholarly Research Strategies Award. Newly created by The Ames Library faculty, the \$500 award recognizes students for their outstanding strategies of acquiring information in creating scholarly, artistic or creative projects.

To be considered for the award, students must submit an application along with a 500-700 word essay, a digital copy of the project, a letter of support from the faculty member or instructor who assigned the project, and signed consent to have the project electronically archived in the Digital Commons. Eligible projects are those completed within the current academic year, regardless of when preparation began.

To submit a project for consideration, e-mail it to University Librarian Karen Schmidt at karens@iwu.edu, or bring it to her office at 201-A in The Ames Library. The deadline for applications is 12 p.m., April 13. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted; and no submissions will be returned. Interested students are asked to submit copies of their projects or papers.

Applications and projects will be reviewed by The Ames Library faculty members. The award is funded through donations to The Ames Library.

For additional submission details and further information on the award, visit <http://www.iwu.edu/library/award/>.