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Oct. 1 Deadline

IWU Prof, Grad Team Up to Write New Psychology Text

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University professor and a 1994 IWU graduate are teaming up to write a new psychology textbook. They are racing toward an Oct. 1 deadline to get the first draft of the 16-chapter book delivered to a California publisher.

The co-authors are **Wayne Dornan**, associate professor and chairperson of psychology, and Jennifer Johns, a psychology graduate from Mt. Prospect, Ill.

The book, "Clinical Neuropsychology: Theory and Application," is slated for publication in 1996 by Brooks/Cole, a subsidiary of Wadsworth Publishing.

"The book," Dornan explained, "looks at psychological disorders from the biomedical perspective. It looks at abnormalities in the brain that may explain why someone becomes clinically depressed and how to treat them with medications."

The book's audience, according to Dornan, will be practicing clinicians, medical students who aspire to be psychiatrists, graduate psychology students, advanced undergraduate students, and people interested in psychopharmacology.

Dornan tapped Johns, one of his former students at IWU as co-author, "because her writing ability is outstanding. She has the ability to integrate a vast amount of information and put it into a highly readable form. She is a psychology major with good English skills."

"I thought he was kidding," Johns said, commenting on her reaction to Dornan's invitation to co-author the book, "since I don't have a master's degree or a doctorate. This is an incredible experience for someone just out of college."

"It's an enormous task," Johns added. "There is a wealth of information and the field is constantly changing. Writing a book is something I always wanted to do--but I thought it might be 30 years down the road."

Johns' role is generally to assist researching and writing the text. She gained research experience as an undergraduate psychology student at IWU, working on a research honors project as a senior, "The Effects of Social Competition on the Economic Behavior of Rats."

Johns' research project explored the question of whether animals--like people--respond to the law of supply and demand? When a commodity--food--is in short supply,

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or competition is keen, will animals "pay" more to obtain it?

Johns turned a Skinner Box into an economic marketplace. A Skinner Box is an apparatus used in operant conditioning experiments, containing a bar, which animals press to gain a reward--food--or avoid pain.

"We examined animal behavior using rats," she explained, "and how indirect and direct social competition affects their economic behavior in a Skinner Box."

James Dougan, assistant professor of psychology, who worked with Johns on the research project, said, "The experiments provide an animal model of the economic system and economic models provide another way to look at animal behavior."

"This is one of the advantages that IWU faculty have, working so much one-on-one with students," Dornan explained, referring to faculty-student collaboration on research projects. "That's the only way I could really know what Jennifer's abilities are and see her potential."

Last July, Dornan and Johns attended the Collegium International Neuropsychopharmacologicum (CINP), a professional meeting in Washington, D.C., which attracted about 4,000 people from 64 nations. Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore (who has a master's degree in clinical psychology), delivered the meeting's opening address, focusing on advances in mental health care. She also carried a message to the meeting from President Bill Clinton. The IWU team had the chance to acquire much information about the latest trends in neuropsychopharmacology at the meeting.

"I've never been to a conference," Dornan said, "where you had as many eminent researchers in a field in the same building."

The Dornan-Johns' text will be published during the "Decade of the Brain," a designation for the 1990s made by former President George Bush. Part of the Bush thrust was to study the serious consequences for the economy of central nervous system disorders, according to Dornan.

After the publisher receives the textbook draft, it will be circulated to reviewers for comment and revisions will be made over the next six months. Artwork will be a large part of the book's presentation.

The schedule calls for a working draft of the book to be ready for a publishing industry meeting in August, 1995, for promotional purposes.

Dornan is heading up a wide-ranging research project into Alzheimer's Disease, the
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memory-erasing illness that affects up to an estimated four million Americans.

This student-faculty research project has resulted in publication of research findings in the November, 1993, edition of *Neuroreport*, an international scientific journal, specializing in quickly communicating new and important findings in various fields of neuroscience. The article was bylined by Dornan and three IWU student researchers.

A preliminary report on the article's findings by Dornan and the students was presented at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C., November 7-12, 1993, a conclave that attracted thousands of neuroscientists from around the world.

Eight IWU students are now working with Dornan on Alzheimer's research. They also are working with scientists at Harvard, Abbott Laboratories, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

An aspect of current IWU Alzheimer's research is focusing on the relationship of stress hormones to the disease.

Last summer, the *American Journal of Public Health* reported that Alzheimer's Disease costs the nation \$82.7 million annually in medical expenses, round-the-clock care for its victims, and lost productivity. That makes Alzheimer's the nation's third most expensive disease, after heart disease and cancer.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. For five consecutive years, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked IWU No. 1 in the Midwest among regional colleges and universities in its annual "America's Best Colleges" edition. *U.S. News* also rated IWU as a "best buy" in higher education in its first survey, "Paying for College," published in October, 1993.