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## Mona J. Gardner Received 1993 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence

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# Illinois Wesleyan University

GARDNER  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR RELEASE, MAY 12, 11 A.M. (CDT)**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Mona J. Gardner, a finance professor and director of the Business and Economics Division, today received Illinois Wesleyan University's top teaching honor, the 1993 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence.

The teacher-scholar award, presented to Gardner at an 11 a.m. Honors Day convocation in IWU's Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, is sponsored by DuPont Agricultural Products, Inc., of El Paso, Ill., a subsidiary of the Delaware-based chemical industry leader, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. Robalee M. Deike, human resources manager of DuPont Agricultural Products, made the award presentation.

Mark Denzler, senior class president, received the Technos International Prize, presented by Takashi Hashimoto, vice president of the Tokyo-based Technos International College. Denzler, a political science major from Decatur, Ill., with a strong interest in foreign affairs, was selected for the award by IWU's international studies faculty for his outstanding academic performance and leadership in the international studies program.

Illinois Wesleyan University President Minor Myers, jr., said, "There's a saying that: 'The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.' Mona Gardner is a great teacher--an inspiration to her students and colleagues. Her sustained commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service is recognized today as IWU bestows on her its 1993 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence. "

Myers also thanked DuPont for underwriting the award, noting that it "represents a strong partnership between business and higher education aimed at promoting excellence in teaching."

It was announced at the Honors Day convocation that Paul Bushnell, an associate professor of history, will be the 1994 recipient of the teaching excellence award.

IWU's Personnel Council, an elected faculty committee, selected Gardner and Bushnell for the award from a group of nominees based on their accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and service. The committee is chaired by David Bailey, a professor of chemistry and director of the university's Natural Science Division.

John D. Wenum, a political scientist, director of IWU's social science division, and head of the university's political science department, received the award last year.

Previously, IWU's top teaching honor was known as the Century Club award.

The Technos International Prize, received by Denzler, is awarded for outstanding performance and commitment to the cause of international understanding. It is an part of a three-year-old international exchange agreement between IWU and Technos. The award is supported

by the Tanaka Educational Trust, which has awarded a \$1.2 million endowed professorship in Japanese language studies to IWU. Wesleyan will begin teaching Japanese this coming fall semester.

The Honors Day program also recognized several hundred IWU seniors and other students for scholastic accomplishments and leadership in various activities, including student government, the campus newspaper, and Homecoming.

### **Gardner's Background**

Gardner, IWU's Adlai H. Rust Professor of Insurance/Finance, has a varied higher education background. For four years she worked in residential programs at Syracuse University and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County Campus, where she managed everything from a 500-student residence hall to a university-wide housing program with a \$5 million operating budget, a \$5.4 million physical plant, and a staff of 70.

That real-world management experience, as well as her strong academic background, helped prepare Gardner for the challenges of teaching a wide range of courses, including financial management, investments, property/liability insurance, financial markets, financial institutions, advanced financial theory, and managing diversity.

Gardner is an innovative teacher, who offers IWU students unique and timely courses, such as "Financial Scandals," a special topics course examining the shenanigans that rocked Wall Street and Washington in the 1980s, and travel seminars to Europe and Asia, probing the international dimensions of business and finance.

Gardner earned a bachelor of arts degree in English, Magna Cum Laude, from Southern Methodist University and a master of arts degree in higher education administration from Columbia University. She was awarded a second master's degree--a master of business administration degree, with a major in finance--from the University of Cincinnati, and a doctorate in finance, with minors in accounting and public administration, also from the University of Cincinnati.

Her career has included teaching and research positions at the University of Cincinnati and Miami University (Ohio). She served as an assistant and associate professor of finance at Illinois State University from 1980 to 1988, when she joined Illinois Wesleyan as a professor of finance and head of the Department of Business Administration.

Gardner is the author or co-author of five books, including "Managing Financial Institutions: An Asset/Liability Approach", which won the Award of Merit from the Chicago and Midwest Technical Communications Society, based on its excellence in writing, editing, and design. She also has written articles for professional journals, as well as book reviews, non-refereed articles, case studies, and computer software consisting of exercises and cases based on

material in "Managing Financial Institutions." Gardner frequently presents papers at professional meetings of national and regional groups.

Gardner has been awarded grants from universities, government agencies, and other sources to study subjects, such as minority banking, consumer responses to adjustable rate mortgages, defaults and foreclosures on home mortgages, and the impact of Diamond-Star Motors on the economy of Bloomington-Normal. In 1984, she won Illinois State University's Outstanding Researcher Award.

Gardner is active in public service. She has served as vice president and treasurer of the Women's Division of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce; a director of the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Society; a member of the McLean County 21st Century Committee; and she frequently addresses local and professional groups on topics such as bank mergers and acquisitions.

Gardner has served on various university committees, dealing with subjects ranging from Japanese studies and academic resources and programs to liberal education and technology and the humanities. She served as the Faculty Visitor to the Board of Trustees from 1991-93.

She is a member of several professional organizations, such as the Academy of Financial Services, where she has held several top posts, including president; American Risk and Insurance Association; Eastern Finance Association; Financial Management Association; Midwest Finance Association; and the Southern Finance Association.

### **Bushnell Profile**

Bushnell joined IWU's faculty in 1966 after serving for four years as an assistant professor of history at Arkansas State Teachers College.

Bushnell earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He holds a bachelor of divinity degree from the Yale Divinity School and has done work toward a doctorate at Vanderbilt University.

Bushnell's interest in history was sparked by a year of travel in the Middle East and living in Afghanistan. During his graduate study at Michigan, Yale, and Vanderbilt, Bushnell focused on social history and the way religious ideas and culture relate to human action.

Through his participation in the civil-rights movement, Bushnell's professional interests also encompass Afro-American history.

With Robert Bray, IWU's R. Forest Colwell Professor of English, Bushnell edited, "Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution, 1775-1783," which was published in 1978 by Northern Illinois University Press. The book, which took four years to research and write, is an annotated edition of the military journal of Jeremiah Greenman, a Rhode Islander. The book not only relates the soldier's war experiences, but his business ventures and career as a sea captain.

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The Honors Day convocation recognizes IWU students who have earned scholastic and activity honors. IWU students are honored for membership in about 20 scholastic honorary societies, representing disciplines ranging from marketing, foreign languages, and nursing to biology, education, and history.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 1,800 students in its College of Liberal Arts, a College of Fine Arts, and a School of Nursing. In 1992, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Illinois Wesleyan No. 1 in the Midwest among regional colleges and universities for the fourth consecutive year.