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## For Immediate Release

Jerry Bidle  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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**NEWS SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 2900  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900  
(309) 556-3181

*Date:* July 18, 1991  
*Contact:* Jerry Bidle

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Charla Renner, assistant professor of nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University, will use her Fall Semester and January Term sabbatical to fulfill a dream of nearly a decade...to return to Botswana in southern Africa; this time to teach.

Mrs. Renner will leave July 29 for Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, where she has accepted a temporary position with the Department of Nursing at the University of Botswana.

The appointment is the result of her own desire to make the sabbatical meaningful and fulfilling from a professional viewpoint. Initially she contacted Project Hope, but learned that the supply of trained nurses and teachers far exceeded the demand. Through acquaintances at the University of Illinois in Chicago, she became aware of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for International Nursing Development in Primary Health Care. With the assistance of Dr. Joan Reeves, University of Illinois-Chicago, Renner corresponded with officials at the University of Botswana, who were excited about her proposal to join the faculty for a semester. Arrangements were made and confirmation of the position was received in June.

At this point, she is uncertain of the specific courses she will teach, but she has learned that the students will be registered nurses, so the curriculum will be sort of a degree completion program.

Her husband, who is at Illinois State University, will join her during the Christmas holidays. The Renners, who are a host family for Bridget Darroch, a nursing senior at IWU from Harare, Zimbabwe, plan to visit her parents.

Botswana, formerly known as Bechuanaland, gained independence from Great Britain in 1966. It is slightly smaller than Texas with a population of about one and a quarter million people. Gaborone, a city of about 130,000, is located near the southeastern border of the country, only about 150 miles from Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa. The southwestern quarter of the country is the locale of the famous Kalahari Desert. The standard of living, while poor by American standards, is one of the highest in Africa. Health conditions are poor with the majority of the population cared for through mobile clinics.

Being in the southern hemisphere, Renner will arrive during their winter and will remain until mid-summer.