



Spring 4-28-1995

IWU Junior Slated to Teach Economics at Foreign Service Institute

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "IWU Junior Slated to Teach Economics at Foreign Service Institute" (1995).
News and Events. 6363.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6363>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

April 28, 1995

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Assignment: State Department

IWU Junior Slated to Teach Economics at Foreign Service Institute

Editor's Note: *Gwendolyn Marie Alexander, whose home is in Crest Hill, Ill., a community near Joliet, will work at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute this summer. Alexander is a graduate of Lockport Township High School. Her parents--Jack and Stephanie Alexander--live at 1602 Marlboro in Crest Hill.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University junior, who has just won a \$3,000 Exceptional Student Fellowship from State Farm Insurance, will work this summer at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

Gwendolyn Marie Alexander, an economics and international studies major with a concentration in diplomacy, will work as a teaching assistant and tutor at the State Department's training arm for foreign service officers and other personnel.

Alexander, a native of Crest Hill, Ill., a community near Joliet, also is among 50 college juniors and seniors nationally, majoring in business-related fields, who were awarded State Farm Fellowships.

Alexander will work at the Arlington, Va.-based State Department facility, in suburban Washington, D.C., from May 30-Aug. 11.

The Foreign Service Institute, Alexander explained, helps prepare foreign service officers for their assignments overseas, noting, "It offers the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in economics in nine months through intensive study.

"I wanted to use my economics skills on the international level," Alexander said, explaining the attraction of working at the Foreign Service Institute.

Alexander will work as a teaching assistant for statistically oriented computer classes, as well as tutor some foreign service officers in the principals of economics. She also will put together packets of information about various countries for foreign service officers and handle some logistical

(more)

State Department Intern/2

issues surrounding guest speakers for various programs.

Alexander is excited and a trifle nervous about her State Department internship.

"I'll be teaching diplomats," Alexander said, "and tutoring people older than myself," explaining the challenge she is facing.

In one course, Alexander expects to teach foreign service officers about the economic profiles of the countries they are assigned to using software like Lotus and Excel.

"Non-economic officers," Alexander said, "will take principles of economics courses and I will tutor some of them if they are having problems."

Alexander believes her summer at the State Department will reinforce her understanding of economics.

"The more I explain it to others," she said, "the better I understand economics."

Alexander's long-term goals include attending law school, following in the footsteps of some relatives, and perhaps pursuing a career in international business law.

"Working at the State Department as a college student," Alexander said, "is so exciting. Coming to Illinois Wesleyan, you have the opportunity to do things like that--to get out into the 'real' world and apply what you've learned."

As a stepping stone to her summer internship at the State Department, Alexander was in Washington for two weeks last January, as part of an IWU course examining U.S. foreign policy. Alexander and 18 other students attended briefings at various embassies, including the People's Republic of China, Israel, and Syria. They also were briefed by officials of the State Department, Defense Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Agency for International Development, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, Center for Defense Information, and other agencies.

"So much of foreign policy is tied to economic policy," Alexander said,

(more)

State Department Intern/3

reflecting on the January trip to Washington.

"It was kind of amazing," she added, "that all the agencies were saying they weren't relics of the Cold War--and that all of them were fighting for dollars."

Alexander learned that she had secured the State Department internship when she visited the Foreign Service Institute during the trip to Washington in January.

Alexander, who sports a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, is planning to apply her \$3,000, one-year State Farm Fellowship to her IWU tuition next year.

"IWU won four of the State Farm Fellowships," Alexander said, "tying with the University of Texas at Austin and beating out Harvard."

Criteria for the fellowship include majoring in a business-related field, leadership, participating in other organizations, grade-point average, and recommendations from faculty and administrators.

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. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *U.S. News* ranks IWU the second most efficient national liberal arts college--a key gauge of the campus' quality academic program and relatively reasonable cost. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. IWU's 1994 freshman class scored an average 27.9 on the ACT exam, compared to the national average of 20.7.