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IWU Political Science Major Heads for New York And a Summer Internship Focusing on Urban Policy Issues

Editor's Note: *Laura McRoberts of Belleville, Ill., will spend the summer in New York City working on urban policy issues under an internship program sponsored by Fordham University. McRoberts, a junior majoring in political science, is the daughter of James and Elizabeth McRoberts, 425 Homestead Ave., Belleville. Mr. McRoberts is an attorney; Mrs. McRoberts is a realtor.*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University political science major will explore the complexities of urban policy this summer, when she works as an intern in New York City under a program sponsored by Fordham University.

Laura McRoberts, an IWU junior, will not find out her specific internship assignment until she arrives in the Big Apple. She will arrive in New York early in June and remain there until Aug. 8.

She has applied to work with several organizations, including the American Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, a midnight basketball program, and Midtown Community Court.

"My goal is to have a challenging internship," McRoberts said, "and to gain some real world experience, especially since I want to go to law school. The Fordham internship program will give me the chance to become more independent academically and to grow personally."

McRoberts' internship, focusing on urban policy, will mesh well with some of the courses she intends to take at IWU next fall: a senior seminar on urban policy and a sociology course dealing with community and urban development.

Traveling to New York for the summer holds no special challenge for McRoberts. She's already visited the People's Republic of China, Australia, Central America, Korea, Hong Kong, and other places on IWU-sponsored

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travel courses or with her family.

Law and politics come naturally to McRoberts. Her father and both grandfathers are attorneys. Her family has been active in political campaigns and one of her grandfathers was a member of the Florida state legislature.

McRoberts and five other IWU students will be working on internships this summer under a program operated by Fordham University, which gives students the chance to live, learn, and work in New York City. The program helps students jump-start their careers, gain leadership experience, and receive practical, hands-on education. Internships in the theatre/arts, business/finance, communications/media, international relations, and urban policy are arranged by Fordham University faculty and administrators. A course on New York City supplements the internship experience and features field trips to many city landmarks and cultural programs.

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.